



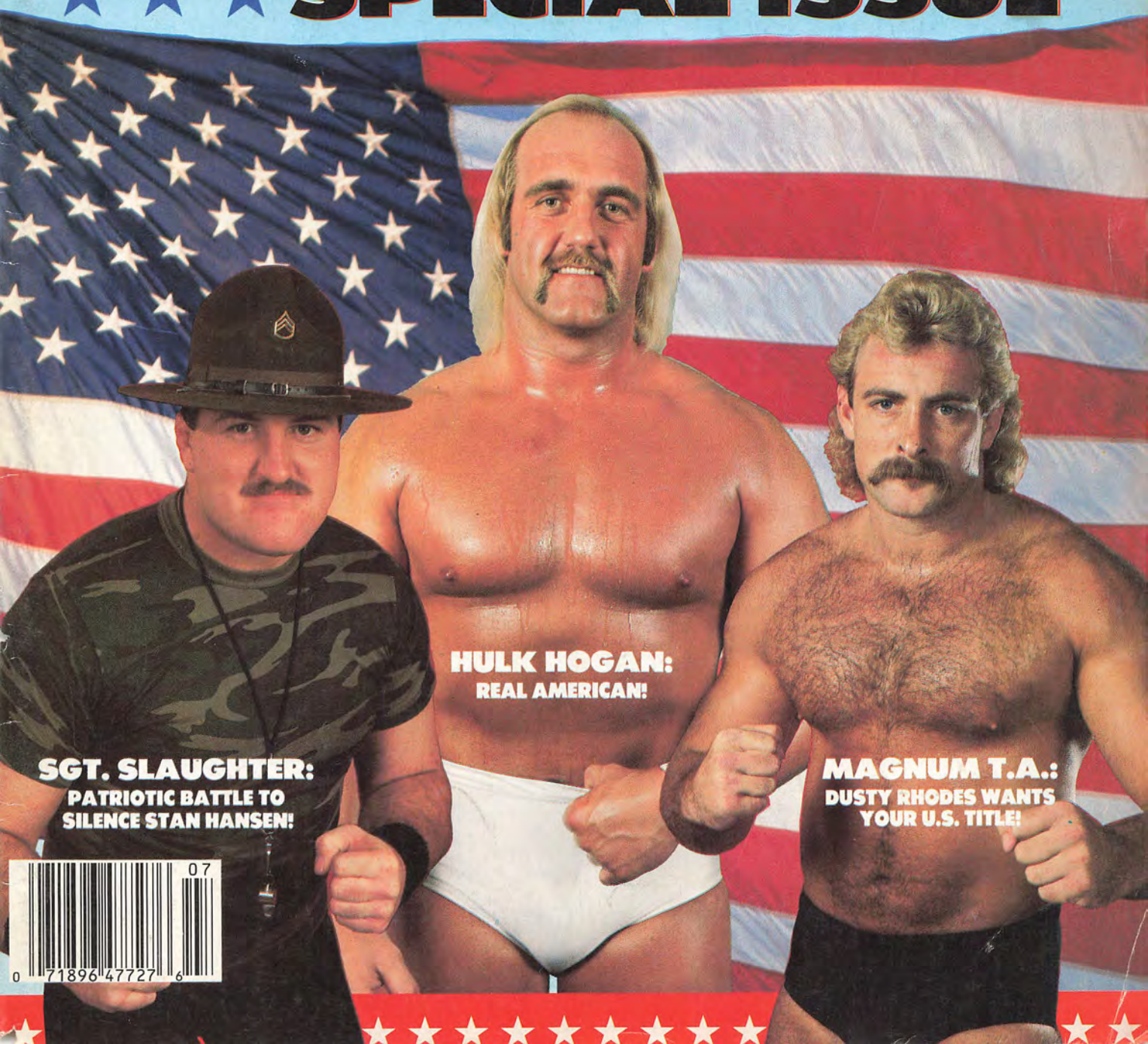
Inside

IVAN KOLOFF:
"AMERICAN PATRIOTISM MAKES ME SICK!"

47727  July 1986
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Wrestling

ALL-AMERICAN ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ **SPECIAL ISSUE**



SGT. SLAUGHTER:
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SILENCE STAN HANSEN!

HULK HOGAN:
REAL AMERICAN!

MAGNUM T.A.:
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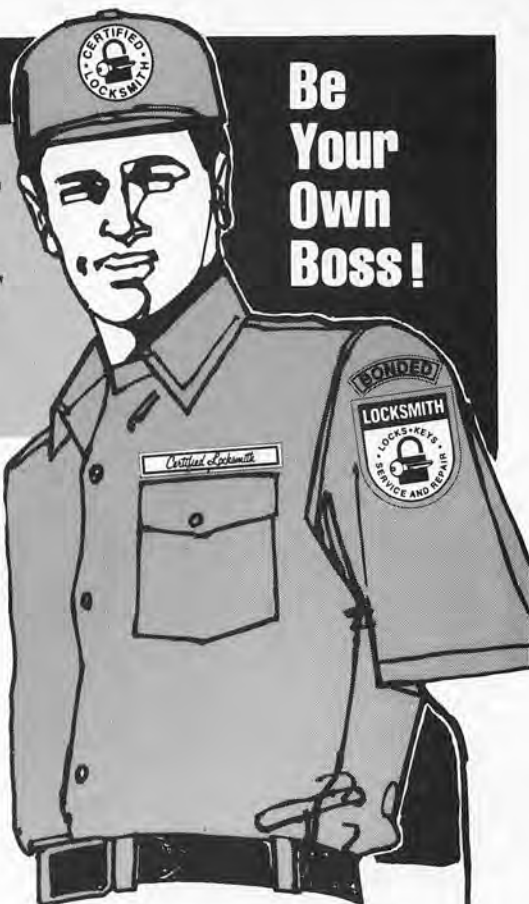
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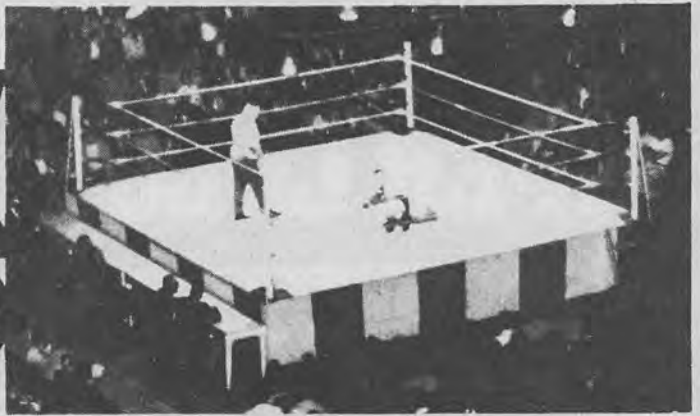
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A SAVAGE MISTAKE

I was so amused to see the editors of *Inside Wrestling* ready to bury and dispose of Hulk Hogan ("Randy Savage—WWF Champion: What Would This Mean To Wrestling?" May 1986). Your magazines are always so quick to search for chinks in Hulkamania. I suspect now that Randy Savage has been relegated to the pile of "can't miss" contenders, you'll pick up the cheer for King Kong Bundy, and litter your pages about how his challenge is *certain* to end Hogan's title reign.

When will you people realize the invincibility of Hulk Hogan? There has never been a champion like him and, after he retires his belt, there never will

be a champion like him again. Wrestling immortality is already his. No one has accomplished the success Hogan has in such a short period of time. Not only do promoters throughout the country owe him a debt of gratitude, but your magazines do also. As his star has risen, so has the star of professional wrestling. Translation: more money all around.

How about some retrospective pieces on "Hulk Hogan: Wrestling's Enduring Champion," instead of the mindless and groundless critiques you always seem to run. Try it. You might even sell more magazines.

LARRY MERKLE
East Meadow, NY



Reader Larry Merkle wonders when *Inside Wrestling* is going to face up to the fact that Hulk Hogan (battling Randy Savage) is the dominant force in wrestling.

LET'S GO TO THE VIDEOTAPE

Why does the NWA bother to tape matches when they never use them to reverse a bad decision? Example: The defeat of The Rock 'n' Roll Express by The Midnight Express for the NWA title. Everyone saw how the Midnights stole the title. Jim Cornette's team should have been disqualified the moment Cornette jumped upon the ring apron with his tennis racket. All the NWA did was fine Cornette \$5,000, a piddling sum, given the bottomless checkbook Cornette's mother has. The commissioners saw the match on tape, yet allowed the decision to stand. Was it not obvious that Cornette's tennis racket is the only reason his team was able to win? It must have been, since they fined the manager. That must mean they consider their World tag team championship to be worth less than \$5,000, since they allowed The Midnight Express to keep it.

Example 2: The Ric Flair-Tommy Young connection. For the past year, referee Tommy Young has made sure that Ric Flair retains his title. It's plain to anyone who watches the matches that Young is being paid off by the champ to "conveniently" knock himself out of matches that Flair is in danger of losing. That way, there is never anyone around to see Flair rulebreak his way out of danger.

And what about the NWA giving Flair a new \$35,000 belt with *his name engraved on it*. Since when does the NWA champ get his name engraved upon a title belt? Something fishy is going on in the NWA and I wish your

(Continued on page 50)

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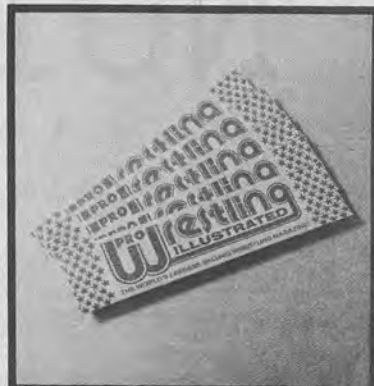
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

Well, they did it again. The WWF has a track record of going crazy every time a big promotion approaches. This year's WrestleMania 2 was no different. As the big date grew near, everyone who works for the WWF seemed to turn into a WrestleManiac.

You see, the WWF gambles so much on its once-a-year extravaganza that it sometimes, in an attempt to get you to see it, tends to stretch the truth a little. Or a lot. Last year, the Big Lie was that if you didn't go see WrestleMania live or on closed-circuit, you would never, ever see the matches anywhere. As Vince McMahon put it in those frantic last days when it looked as if he was facing a potential monetary disaster, "You'll be old and gray before you see any of the matches on free TV."

One week after WrestleMania, the WWF began showing some matches from the event on free TV. A few months later, a fan could rent the WrestleMania tape at his local video store for \$1. So much for old and gray.

This year's Big Lie was a whopper. According to the WWF announcers (who spent most of the month of March not announcing, but hyping WrestleMania 2 continuously), the match between Hulk Hogan and King Kong Bundy marked the first time a world championship had been contested inside a cage.

Bullchips!

All right, perhaps the WWF doesn't recognize the existence of any other wrestling federation. So let's excuse their "forgetting" that NWA champion Ric Flair won his title from Harley Race inside a cage. But what about all of the title matches Bruno Sammartino had inside a cage? Or Pedro Morales? Or Bob Backlund? Or even Hulk Hogan? Of course the WWF hucksters remember those. But that information might hold down ticket sales. Some people may call this a good marketing ploy.

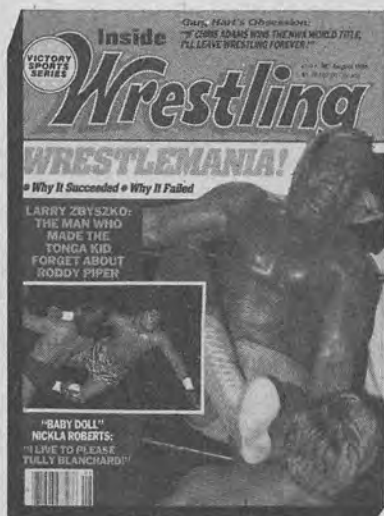
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'TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Stu
Saks**

HER FACE NEVER betrays the emotions that are ripping at her insides. She won't let it.

Karen McDaniel sits front row ringside as Bruiser Brody slams his fists into the face she will be kissing hours later. Her expression—or lack of expression—never changes. She is careful not to let Wahoo McDaniel know that she is dying inside.

"I can only think of one thing in the world that could be worse than watching Wahoo wrestle," said Wahoo's wife of four years, "and that's staying at home imagining what is happening to him. I don't dare let him see me worry; he'll never let me go again."

It's hard to conceive of Karen McDaniel conjuring images that are much worse than what actually occurs. Her husband is the type of wrestler who will take five shots to get off one good one. He spills blood in more than half his matches. He wins, but he pays a heavy price. He has been that type of wrestler for about 20 years. Before that, he was that type of football player for the Houston Oilers and the New York Jets.

"Sometimes I wish Wahoo were a tennis player," Karen McDaniel says. "But then I remind myself that he wouldn't be Wahoo if he wasn't a wrestler. The sport is part of him. He just wouldn't be the man I fell in love with without it."

If Karen had been married to Wahoo throughout his career, she would either be numb to the brutality of his profession or a nervous wreck by now. She has only been married to the man for four years. At the time she was introduced to him by mutual friend, NWA promoter Elliott Murnick, she was only a casual fan. It didn't take long before her number two devotion, next to Wahoo, was professional wrestling. "I know more about wrestling than Wahoo does," she said, smiling. "When he's on the road, I

(Continued on page 60)

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Did you know there is an incredible way you can own automobiles for \$200 or less? That's right! \$200, \$150, even as low as \$75.00. And it works for sports cars, luxury sedans, four-wheel-drives, pick-ups and vans.

It wasn't long ago that life really had me pinned down. I was unemployed and deeply in debt. Nothing it seemed would ever go right for me. In fact I had just failed at another business attempt. That was like the final straw. I was miserable, depressed and had lost every ounce of my self confidence.

Then like a lightning bolt from the sky, I discovered something fantastic, something unbelievable. A special way to own automobiles for \$200 or even less!

Don't ask me why this happened to me, because I really don't know. All I know is it came to me when I needed it most, and I didn't question it. I was so excited all I really could think about was trying it out.

So I scraped together the money and tried it. Bingo! It worked even better than I ever expected. Fact is, it worked so good I have already used it five times to own four cars and one truck, two of which only cost \$100 each. What's more, I plan on using this secret for the rest of my life to own dozens more.

Well, you might be thinking I should use this special knowledge to set up some car lots and make a load of money. I did consider that. But to be honest, I really don't want the headaches of running a full scale business. However, I would like to profit some from my discovery. So I wrote down my secret and had it printed.

I am offering it to you for just 10 dollars. I figure that I can sell enough to pay off some bills, take a vacation, and put a down payment on a house for my family. In return you will learn something incredible - a way to own automobiles for \$200 or less.

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- tax write offs
- sweepstakes
- or gambling

I am happy to say, my method can work for practically anyone who can legally own and operate a motor vehicle - teachers, factory workers, housewives, students, professionals, self-employed, unemployed and the list goes on and on.

I realize this whole concept may still sound too good to be true. The truth is if I were in your shoes I would be skeptical too! So I have included some testimonials from people who have already read and used my information:

• James, your secret is incredible! I used it to own a fantastic truck for less than \$85. I wish I had known about this years ago.
Charles M., Florida.

• James, I admit I was skeptical at first, but this method really does work for women. It is truly the poor person's way to own those fancy cars.
Cindy D., Atlanta, Georgia.

• Ten dollars is a very small price to pay for this super information. Way to go James! You have made it possible for me to own those beautiful cars I used to only dream about.
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I FLIPPED THROUGH all six or seven channels and twisted my face in a grimace of disgust. Television in Florida isn't necessarily better or worse than in New York—it's all about the same anywhere you go (99 percent awful)—but without the 34-channel cable hookup I've grown accustomed to, my choices were severely limited.

Local news was the most inviting alternative, so I watched several reports about Spring Break 1986. Each year, thousands of college students from all across the country invade Ft. Lauderdale to celebrate the rites of spring: drink beer, lay in the sun, drink beer, holler at bikini-clad girls, drink beer, and return home with stories about getting arrested for walking in the streets with an open can of beer. Watching the news in Florida during Spring Break is kind of like going to the zoo and looking at the monkey cages.

I also took great pleasure in the fact that the temperature in Ft. Lauderdale was 83 degrees, while my family and friends back on Long Island were shivering away in sub-freezing climes. The smug grin that crossed my face came from a quick calculation of what the wind chill factor up north must have been. Ahh, vacation!

But even on vacation, it's impossible to completely escape the presence of the squared circle. As the news dissolved into yet another installment of

Wheel Of Fortune, I checked my supply of film and loaded my camera bag. The matches were going to start soon, and I wanted to get over to the Ft. Lauderdale War Memorial Auditorium before the traffic for parking got too heavy.



Pride swoops in on Grey.

It had been a while since I've been to Florida to photograph wrestling. In the time since my last visit, Barry Windham had left for the WWF and subsequently returned, Kendall Windham had made his debut and won the Florida belt, Lex Luger had captured the imagination of fans everywhere as well as having captured the Southern title, Kevin Sullivan had expanded his demonic empire to include Bob Roop, and Sir Oliver Humperdink had returned to wreak havoc with such individuals as Kendo Nagasaki and The Ninja.

So I was looking forward to the matches in Ft. Lauderdale. Lex Luger was placing his Southern title on the line against Jesse Barr in a contest that waived the disqualifi-

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

cation rule. Barry Windham was facing Bob Roop in a taped-fist match. The Fabulous Ones were to battle Kendo and Ninja. All great matches, to be sure. I expected to see a lot of action, and I wasn't disappointed.

But what I didn't expect was to be awestruck by an unassuming, quiet, 215-pound individual named Tyree Pride.

Pride currently holds the Bahamas heavyweight title, a championship he lost briefly to Jerry Grey. His style can best be described as a rookie's developing mix-

ture of the high-flying skills of a Rick Morton or Robert Gibson blended with the sure-footed scientific abilities of Jesse Barr or Ronnie Garvin.

On this evening's match against Grey, more than Pride's belt was on the line. If he lost the match and the title, he would have to return to his native Haiti for a minimum of 90 days.

Tyree won the match, and did so with remarkable skill and finesse. On a night when the fans cheered for Kendall and Barry Windham and The Fabulous Ones, it was Tyree who clearly won the loudest accolades.

I spent a few minutes after the matches talking with this Haitian rookie about his fans and his championship. Pride spoke humbly, almost deliberately underplaying his own talents and the cheers he receives.

"Yeah, mon, I just go out there and do my thing, you know? My people make me feel good, it's like having family in the audience, you see. When I'm in trouble, they give me their support. When I'm doing well, they cheer me to do better. They be a lot of my strength, mon, they do me good all round.

"You know, one time in Miami I wrestled Rick Rude, and my Bahamas title was at stake. I won the match by disqualification and kept the title, but a lot of my people, they thought I lost the title. They all went crazy! It was almost like a riot! I thought they were going to kill Rude's manager, Percy Pringle.

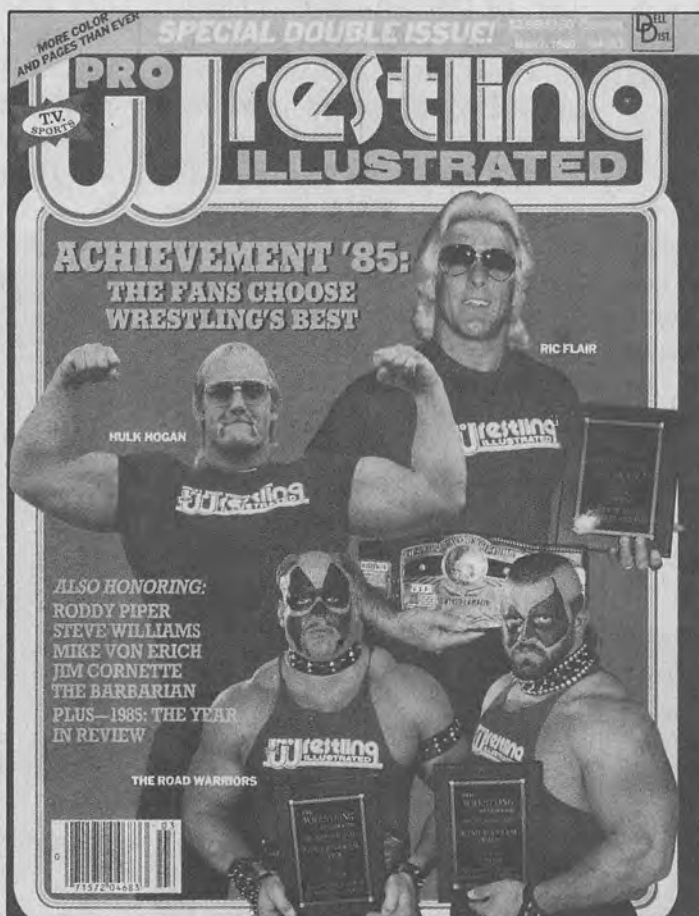
"Look, I think it's good that my people support me, and I couldn't do what I do without them, they're the ones who make it all possible. But please, my people, don't do things like that riot. Many of you might get hurt, and I couldn't live with that responsibility, okay people?"

I asked Pride if he felt shortchanged because people like the Windhams and Luger get more press coverage than he does.

"Hey, mon, I be just starting out. I'm happy. I live for myself, I got to satisfy me first. If you people want to write about me, that's fine. But I got to be happy, then all else follows. Titles, cheers, and happiness will follow."

An admirable formula for success that Bahamas champion Tyree Pride is making work every day of the week. □

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NAMES MAKI

This issue, we welcome a new wrestling federation to the sport: the UWF. Well, not actually a *new* federation, but an established organization under a new name. You remember the UWF as the Mid-South. Why the change?

"We just kind of outgrew ourselves," said **Bill Watts**, former president of Mid-South Wrestling and current UWF president and chief executive officer. "Our television syndication is growing by leaps and bounds, our live matches are expanding their horizons, and it just reached the point where the name 'Mid-South' seemed too confining."

In the title picture, **Dick Slater** no longer holds the television title or the



DICK SLATER

North American title, and he didn't wrestle once to lose those championships! Slater gave the TV title to his friend **Buzz Sawyer**, mainly because Mid-South/UWF rules state that no

man can hold two titles concurrently.

But when Slater declined to fill in the blanks in an open title defense contract, instead opting to allow Watts to complete the contract, the result was that Sawyer was to make a title defense against **Hacksaw Duggan**. But instead of defending the TV title, the contract stated that Sawyer would be defending Slater's North American title! The contract was declared legal and binding. Duggan won the match and the North American belt!

In other UWF news, **The Sheepherders** captured the UWF tag team title from **Ted DiBiase** and **Steve Williams**. DiBiase then sustained a back injury at the hands of the Sheeps in a return title match several days later. The injury occurred when DiBiase found himself triple-teamed by the Sheeps and **Jack Victory**.



WENDI RICHTER

Here's one from the "Where Are They Now?" files: **Wendi Richter** is

now wrestling in Puerto Rico. She's been competing against **Sasha**, the valet of WWC Puerto Rican champion **Eric Embry**. Wendi was brought into the area by **The RPMs**, **Mike Davis** and **Tommy Lane**, who have become fed up with Sasha's repeated interference in their matches.



BLACK BART

Black Bart is the new Mid-Atlantic champion, having defeated Sam Houston for the belt in Mooresville, North Carolina. Here's what happened: Houston delivered an atomic kneedrop to Bart, whose legs collapsed under him sending him crashing into referee **Tommy Young**. Houston followed up the attack with a flying headscissors and captured Bart in a pinning combination, but Young was too dazed to make the three-count. Houston bulldogged Bart, covered him for the pin, but Young was *still* too dazed to count. Bart got up and tossed Houston out of the ring. As Sam tried to climb

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

through the ropes, he found himself the victim of Bart's "Texas Trash Compactor," a double-legdrop against the ropes. Bart dragged Houston into the ring and covered him for the pin. This time, Young *wasn't* too dazed to make the three-count.

Terry Funk and **Dory Funk Jr.** have reunited as a tag team in the WWF, and it looks as if they'll remain



DORY FUNK JR.

in doubles competition for some time to come . . . **The Road Warriors** are beginning to aim the Legion of Doom's guns at NWA World tag team champions **The Midnight Express** . . . **Rip Oliver** recently suffered a rib injury in a match with **Jimmy Snuka**.

Over in the World Class area, **Bruiser Brody** and **Terry Gordy** are feuding like a pair of wildcats. Gordy's **Freebird** brothers **Michael Hayes** and **Buddy Roberts** helped "Bamm Bamm" triple-team the wildman from New Mexico. The 'Birds claimed that their attack had Brody in a wheelchair



TERRY GORDY

for several days, but Brody vehemently denies that—although he does concede that the three-on-one attack nearly hospitalized him.

Joe Pedicino hosts two weekly wrestling programs on WATL Atlanta channel 36 that include news and matches from virtually every wrestling federation in the country, as well as including news from Japan. The two shows together total 5½ hours—and that doesn't include weekly repeat broadcasts! Well, in case Atlanta area wrestling fans haven't had enough TV wrestling lately, Joe will host a 20-hour "Wrestlethon" on May 24—that's the longest wrestling television program we've ever heard of! He's encouraging fans to get together and hold Wrestlethon parties that day. And if you don't live in Atlanta, don't worry—before long you might soon get the chance to see Joe's excellent weekly

roundup of the sport of wrestling. He's currently negotiating with several syndication companies to broadcast his program nationwide.

Bobby Jagers defeated **Tom Zenk** for the Pacific Northwest title . . . **Brian Adidas** is the new World Class Texas champion, having beaten **The Grappler** for that title . . . **Lou Thesz** has been hired as Chief Commissioner and Administrator for Texas All-Star Wrestling.



MAGNUM T.A.

Magnum T.A. reports that the majority of the match contracts he's been receiving have had **Nikita Koloff's** name on them. "The Russians are gearing up for a major stab at my U.S. title," Magnum explained. "Last year they went after **Ric Flair** and the NWA World belt, and they failed at that. Now they're coming after me and the U.S. title, and they're going to fail at that, too."

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches!

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JANUARY 1986

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

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September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

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November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

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February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

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November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

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April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, The Road Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Road Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Road Warriors vs. The Russians, Hillbilly Jim, Rude, Lawler.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

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September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

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April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

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September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/Stories include: 20th Anniversary, 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Lance Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen vs. Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Kevin Von Erich, Rude, Lex Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

THE WRESTLER

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

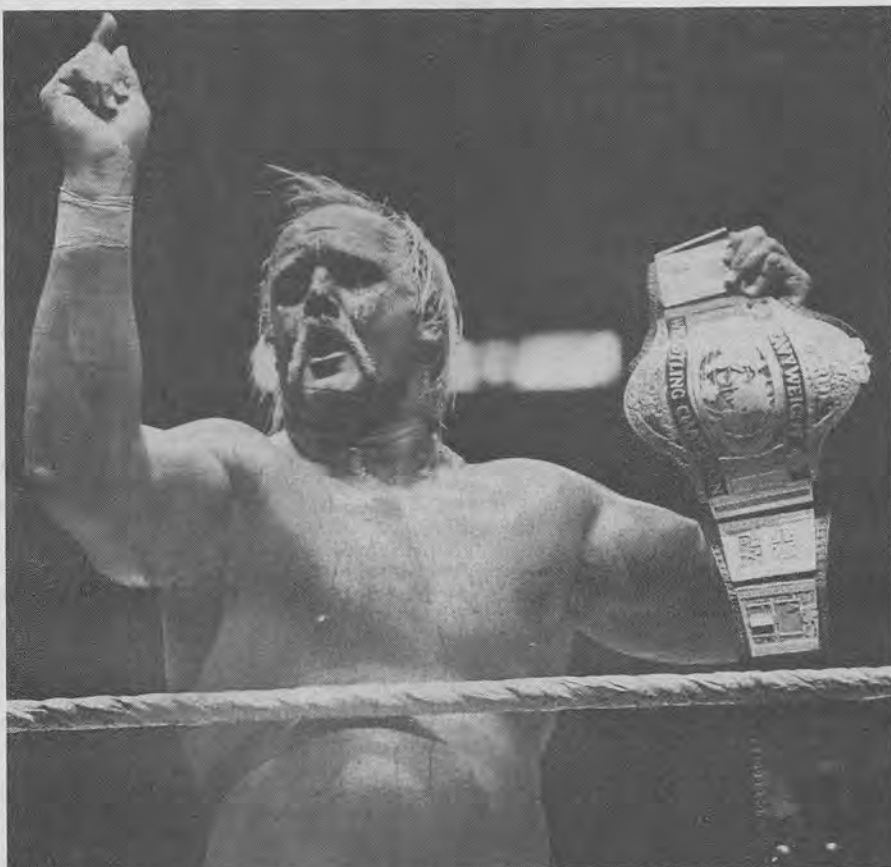
[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

DETENTE?

Perhaps, dear readers, this column will relax old tensions, heal tender wounds. Perhaps not. On page 36 is a tribute to Hulk Hogan ("The Star-Spangled Champion: Hulk Hogan—Real American"), and this columnist has the byline. It is not, as you might suspect, tongue-in-cheek; the story lacks any of the bitter sarcasm I've treated Hogan with in the past. It might, in fact, be the most complimentary piece I've ever written on anyone.

Combine the above data with my intention to begin this month's column with a contest, a 25-word essay completing the phrase, *Whoopi Goldberg can defeat Hulk Hogan in a wrestling match because . . .*, and you come up with muddle of grand proportion.

First off, my opinion of Hogan the wrestler and Hogan the man is essentially unchanged. I still hold him in contempt for the shameless huckstering of Hulkamania, WrestleMania, and etc.Mania, commitments that have taken him out of the ring and in front of the cameras, on cereal boxes, pajamas, and cartoon shows. I would not begrudge any man the endorsement dollars his success may bring him, but when the appropriation of money out-



Hulk Hogan acknowledges the cheers of his fans after a hard-fought victory. Although Eddie Ellner considers Hogan a limited athlete, he feels that the Hulkster's effect on the attitude of the country is far more important.

weighs his concern for his sport, then he ceases to be an athlete in my book. Hogan has proven a poor caretaker of his God-given abilities, and although the manner in which he conducts his life is his own affair, I do not have to contribute to the propagation of his sterling image.

I still think Hogan is a pandering nitwit whose wrestling skills have been in recession for years. However, I must concede that his style, though far from being pretty, has borne fruit. As many fans

have written, so what if he has only two moves? He's the champ, isn't he? Yes, he certainly is.

Still, what would lead me to describe Hogan on page 36 as a man who embodies all the qualities of a modern superstar? The Hogan whose accolades I sing is neither the man nor the wrestler, since his insignificance as both cannot be overstated. What is significant about Mr. Hogan is the indelible mark he has left on the American public. I can no longer

(Continued on page 20)

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

ignore Hogan the symbol; Hogan, the standard bearer not of American professional wrestling, but of American life.

It is not as contradictory as it seems. Can anyone deny the success of Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky* and *Rambo*? The films give no pretensions of cinematic overachievement. Their success is manifold, ranging in reason from the size of Stallone's pectorals to their shoot-'em-up credos.

Their appeal takes precedent in popular culture going back 80 years to the books of Horatio Al-

ger, books as bad and as popular as Stallone's films, but possessing the same message: With a little spit and elbow grease, the little guy can overcome indomitable odds and succeed. Stallone's *Rocky* is the American Dream, his *Rambo* the personification of American justice. Eventually all wrongs will be righted if we just sit through to the end of the movie.

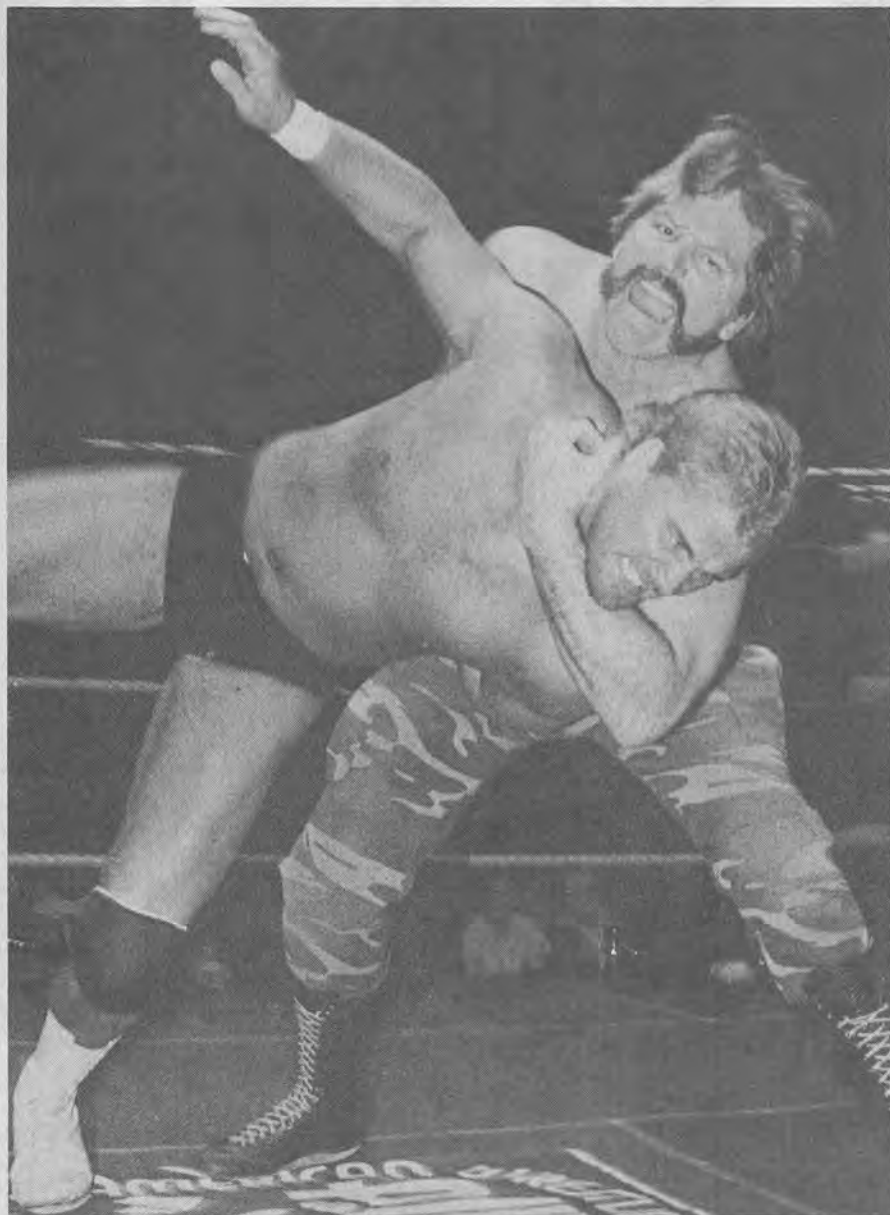
For similar reasons, I admire our President, Mr. Reagan. Because my grandmother survives on Social Security, because my

brother is a hungry member of the school lunch program, and because I believe in peace as much as I believe in the Arts, I did not vote for our current President, who in his tenure has gone to exasperating lengths to cut Social Security and the Endowment for the Arts, has claimed straightfaced that ketchup is a vegetable able to meet the nutritional requirements of students, and approaches war in Libya and Central America with a hand-rubbing zeal that would make Rambo squeamish.

Yet I must admire how the President has restored faith throughout the land, turning our nation into a wellspring of nationalism, a cheerleading Chrysler commercial.

And so the circle returns to Hulk Hogan. As a social phenomenon, Hogan deserves his laurels. He invests in the wrestling fan a belief in values and perseverance, belief in individual power, belief that we can control our own destiny—such ideals should not be taken lightly. To his credit, Hogan pays regular visits to children's hospitals, donating what little extra time he has toward charity. His importance is not in what he does, but in what he stands for. And not even his ghastly ring skills can tarnish that.

Ugh. The latest threat to our shores comes in the formidable presence of Col. DeBeers, emissary of apartheid, from the Southern tip of Africa. Described by doddering color man Verne Gagne as "menacing, menacing, menacing" DeBeers is anything but. This "tough hombre from South Africa" gives the worst impersonation of a rulebreaker I have ever seen. Leave it to the AWA to discover a foreign menace that wouldn't scare Dennis the Menace. □



Col. DeBeers grabs Curt Hennig in a combination hammerlock/chokehold and brings him to the mat. Menacing? Ellner says, "Ugh!"

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NEWS FROM THE

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GREENVILLE, SC By Forrest Briggs



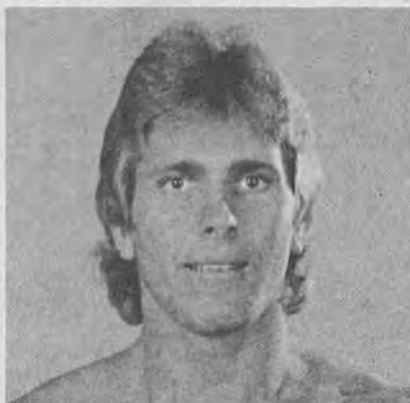
TULLY BLANCHARD
vs.
JIMMY VALIANT



This was a special taped-fist match scheduled for three 10-minute rounds. Dusty Rhodes sat in Valiant's corner, while manager J.J. Dillon acted as Blanchard's second. Blanchard dominated the first 2½ rounds, bleeding Valiant red with a foreign object Dillon snuck to him. Valiant caught Dillon in a sleeper and Dusty busted Blanchard with the weapon, allowing Valiant to fall on Tully for the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: The Barbarian defeated Sam Houston ... Arn Anderson drew with Manny Fernandez ... Baron Von Raschke beat Magnum T.A. by disqualification ... The Road Warriors defeated the Koloffs ... Ric Flair defeated Dusty Rhodes ... The Rock 'n Roll Express defeated The Midnight Express.

DALLAS, TX By Suzanne Sirota



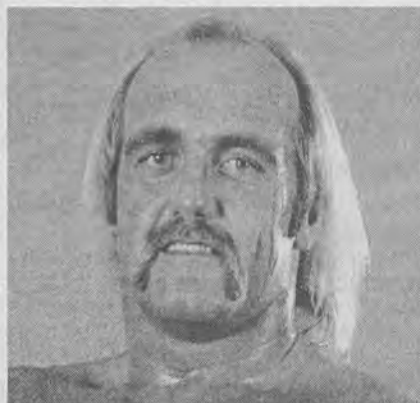
LANCE VON ERICH
vs.
JOHNNY TATUM



Tatum was accompanied by Missy Hyatt, who solicited some colorful remarks from the sold-out crowd. Von Erich bounded into the ring and took the offense immediately, pummeling Tatum with forearms and dropkicks. Tatum retreated to his corner and sought Missy's comforting love. Von Erich lost his patience and dragged his reluctant challenger into center ring, dazzling him with a quick flurry of moves. After weakening Tatum with the claw, Von Erich applied the pin over the shrill protests of Missy.

OTHER BOUTS: Bruiser Brody & The Missing Link defeated Rick Rude & One Man Gang ... Jack Victory beat Tommy Montana ... Kevin & Kerry Von Erich defeated Michael Hayes & Terry Gordy by disqualification.

PHILADELPHIA, PA By Jack Cornley



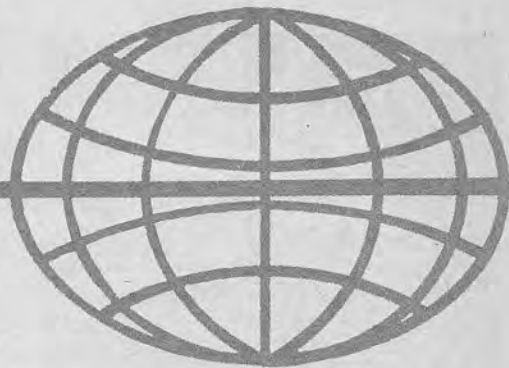
HULK HOGAN
vs.
KING KONG BUNDY



Hogan, still weak from the beating Bundy gave him in Phoenix, moved slowly at the match's outset. Bundy worked on Hogan's ribs and back, striking the vertebrae he weakened weeks before. The crowd rallied behind Hogan and he responded with a blistering elbowsmash and a legdrop. In desperation Bundy threw Hogan out of the ring. Hogan returned and returned the favor, sending Bundy hurtling over the top rope. Bundy was counted out and Hogan was named victor.

OTHER BOUTS: Cpl. Kirschner defeated The Iron Sheik ... Junkyard Dog beat Terry Funk ... Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine defeated The British Bulldogs ... Adrian Adonis beat George Wells ... Pedro Morales defeated Rene Goulet.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



MIAMI, FL By Bernie Angst



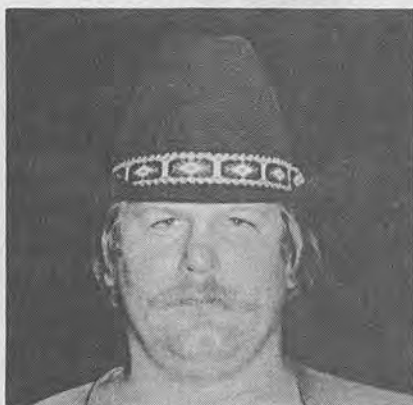
WAHOO McDANIEL
vs.
KEVIN SULLIVAN



This Indian Strap match promised to be bloody, and it delivered. Sullivan prayed to his Dark Gods while being strapped to McDaniel, but his invocation didn't prevent the Indian from smashing his fist square into Sullivan's forehead. Blood bathed both men as they tumbled around the ring. Wahoo proved the stronger, as his sleeperhold sent Sullivan straight into demonic dreamland.

OTHER BOUTS: Tyree Pride defeated The Cuban Assassin ... Hector Guerrero beat Jerry Grey ... Joe Savoldi beat Prince Laukea ... Jesse Barr defeated Lex Lugar in a Texas Death match ... Mike Graham & Kendall Windham beat Maha Singh & The Purple Haze.

ST. PAUL, MN By Brenda Gnerer



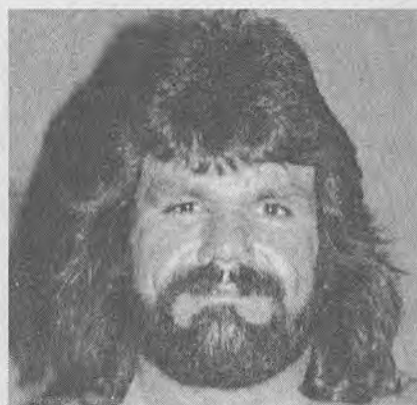
STAN HANSEN
vs.
SGT. SLAUGHTER



Although Slaughter had promised his fans victory on this night, it was not to be. Hansen was in rare form, anticipating every move the Sarge could make and countering with bloody swings of his hamfists. Slaughter rallied briefly with a cobra clutch, but Hansen broke the hold and shucked the marine from the ring. Slaughter, bloody and battered, was counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Marty Jannetty defeated Jim Mitchell ... Col. DeBeers defeated Buck Zumhove ... Brad Rheingans defeated Larry Winters ... Curt Hennig & Scott Hall defeated the Irwin brothers ... The Road Warriors & Paul Ellering defeated The Stomper, Boris Zukhov, & The Barbarian.

TULSA, OK By Jeremy Crimmins



STEVE WILLIAMS
vs.
DICK MURDOCH



This encounter between the two good ol' boys and former friends resembled a wrestling match only in that it took place in a ring. Not a scientific move was exchanged in this bar fight, and one observer counted 125 punches thrown in one especially violent flurry. Predictably, the two cowboys were disqualified, yet continued their brawl well into the dressing room.

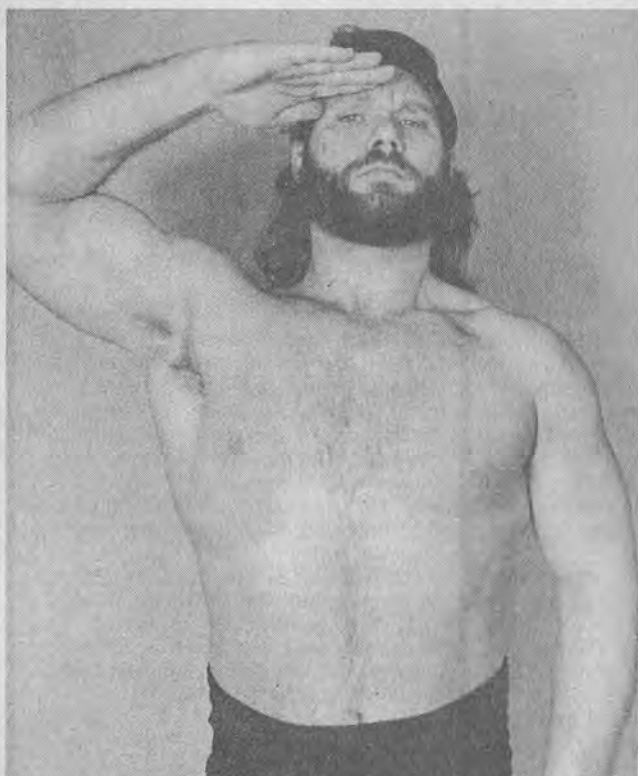
OTHER BOUTS: The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Fabulous Ones ... The Bruise Brothers defeated The Shepherders ... Koko Ware beat Sgt. O'Reilly ... Dick Slater defeated Ted DiBiase via disqualification.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

IN KEEPING WITH the red, white, and blue motif of this *Inside Wrestling*, I traveled this month to those pockets of the country where America's honor is being preserved and desecrated. The 20-year-old answer to America's youthful discontent—America: Love It Or Leave It—is a cry that is now taken up with zealous abandon by the 1980s teenager. Time's circularity is awesome.

TULSA, OK: These fans come in all gradations, models, ages, and designs. Grandpa with grandchild A and A's 14 friends, who dote over the old man as much as he dotes over them; a busload of housewives carrying the neatly folded star-spangled banners they fashioned between *General Hospital* and *One Life To Live*; their men soiled from the oil



HACKSAW DUGGAN

fields and spoiled by the pub; a band of darting, flag-waving Reagan Youth teenagers, their teeth capped, heads held high, belting out the National Anthem (not daring to clap until the last . . . "home of the brave" is sung).

The condition of the Union is healthy and aglow in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

When Hacksaw Duggan emerges from the dressing room, the roar makes it hard to even think of the word communist. Duggan has captured this town by its VFWs and they love him back. For five solid minutes, the SRO crowd stood and cheered, aroused to a patriotic mouth-water by every stomp of Duggan's size-13 double-EEs.

I'm surprised they haven't lynched Korsika Korchenko. Four fans tried to gang tackle the Russian as he moved out of the dressing room and only the reluctant protection of stadium security enabled him safe passage into the ring.

He should have tried his luck against the fans.

To the hysterical delight of the crowd, Duggan introduced Korchenko to frontier American justice. Within 15 minutes, Eddie Gilbert hustled his bloody charge from the ring, leaving Duggan to soak up any cheers the fans hadn't yet bombarded him with.

CHARLOTTE, NC: It's a different story here at 1234 Blank St. (interview given on the promise I wouldn't reveal the address and on the threat that if I did I would never live to write another word), home, office, and training camp of the Koloffs. (For a more detailed dialogue with Ivan Koloff, see Eddie Ellner's *Hotseat* interview with the Russian patriarch beginning on page 38).

As of press time, the Koloffs have not received their invite to the Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday party, nor has Mr. Iacocca contacted them for a Chrysler commercial. These are bad men whose idea of a rocket's red glare is the fallout that would light up Washington in a nuclear war.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

"America will go poof," grunted Nikita Koloff, as he guided me through the 3,000 square foot map room, with Soviet and American missile deployment highlighted on the map with markers. Red outnumbered white almost two to one.

"By defeating America's greatest athletes we undermine the public faith in American abilities," Ivan blipped. "Each victory brings us new converts to Soviet ideology."

I had difficulty envisioning the Koloffs recruiting a Red Army here in tobacco country, yet couldn't explain the 30 guests the Koloffs have at any one time at this massive compound. With Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. caught up in the feud against Flair and the Anderson boys, the Soviets have really gone unchecked in the past several months. Their biggest enemies, The Road Warriors, travel too much to be effective repellants.

"It's a slow process, da, but in the end Russia will triumph," Nikita growled, flexing his arms. "We own the world!"

NEW YORK, NY: Persistence, Marine dogma, and more persistence have finally won Cpl. Kirschner a place in the hearts of WWF fans. Stung by the sudden departure of the beloved Sgt. Slaughter, Kirschner was derided unmercifully when his fatigues first appeared throughout the area.

Now he is seen as the patriotic savior, a wrestler who without a lot of actual ring experience has been able to neutralize the challenge of The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff. Now I'm not saying this is the same Sheik that engaged Slaughter in the legendary bloodbaths of the early '80s—that man has given way to a slightly pot-bellied, casually less committed, and frighteningly money-hungry grappler, but one who nevertheless remains a menace to any American wrestler.

Kirschner has developed a loyal following to counteract the swineherd that attends to the Sheik and Volkoff, but more vitally has acquired a set of wrestling skills to measure up to their demagoguery.

Kirschner desperately needs a steady tag team partner unless he wants his spirited nationality to be squeezed from him like a tube of Crest by a vicious Volkoff-Sheik double-team. Ideally, he'd want



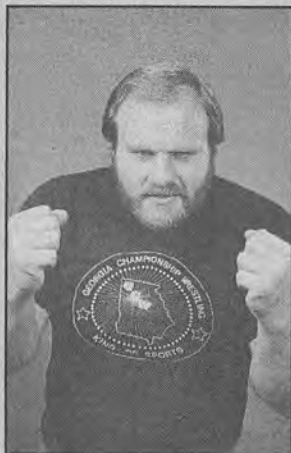
CPL. KIRSCHNER

Slaughter back in the area, but America's corporate and contractual side makes that impossible.

I suggest Junkyard Dog. Both Iran and the Soviet Union have a long history of civil rights violations and the Dog, whose ancestors helped develop the Underground Railroad 150 years ago, is known to be contemptuous of prejudice in any form. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

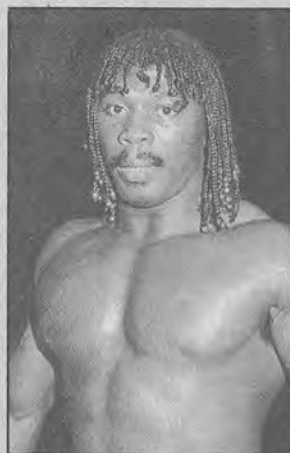
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



OLE ANDERSON

Anderson is still recovering from the knee injury he received at the hands of Magnum T.A. and Dusty Rhodes. To sharpen his body and mind during rehabilitation, Anderson has been working out steadily in

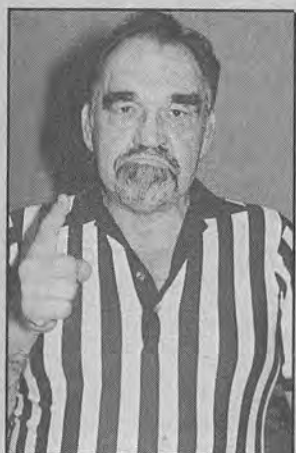
an Atlanta gym, and advising the career of his cousin, Arn Anderson. At the moment, Anderson is planning a trip to Japanese rings to test his knee, before returning to the United States and his inevitable showdown against Rhodes and T.A.



BRICKHOUSE BROWN

The sensational, aerobic wonders of Brickhouse Brown can now be seen at local World Class arenas. Brown claims he is in the best shape of his career and feels Rick Rude's new World Class heavy-

weight title is in real jeopardy. Brown credits his superb condition to the Oswald Diet, a three-month intensified program during which Brown ate nothing but grass, alfalfa, and seaweed and drank distilled virgin goat's milk.



SPUTNIK MONROE

Monroe, who claimed to wrestle his first professional match at the age of nine, is now a referee for Texas All-Star Wrestling. The irony is not lost on the former rulebreaker, who, along with his brother Rocket, terror-

ized Texas and Georgia in the late 1950s and '60s. Sputnik feels that he and Rocket could "still whip the tar out of these modern-day fairy boys. Ain't no one was tougher than the Sputnik. And when I'm refereeing, people listen to me!"



THE TONGA KID

Let's hope the young Polynesian belongs to a frequent flyer program. Tonga has wrestled in Texas, Florida, New York, New England, Australia, and Hawaii in the last several months. He has also signed to

star in a movie that features The Samoans, Roddy Piper, and Cyndi Lauper. Preliminary scripts present Tonga and Piper as close friends who fall from favor to become heated enemies. Art continues its imitation of life.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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capsule profile

GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE

A NATIVE OF Detroit, George Steele began wrestling in the late '60s and immediately captured the interest of the fans with his growling speech, hairy torso, and wild ring style that includes snacking on turnbuckles ("Hey! Turnbuckles taste good, need food to eat!") ... Although virtually incoherent today, Steele's early years saw him speaking in an understandable, though admittedly often Neanderthal, manner ("I have beaten the toughest men in the sport!") ... Feuded with Bruno Sammartino for several years, and is in fact credited with having weakened The Living Legend in a 1971 Pittsburgh match that led to Sammartino's loss of the WWF title to Ivan Koloff three days later ("I cracked Bruno's ribs. Felt goooooood to hear crunch!") ... The years that followed saw Steele backslide into mental inconsistency; his condition deteriorated and he became increasingly more violent in his matches and almost childlike in his speech ("Hey! Hi! Me go in ring! Me go!") ... Often disappeared from the wrestling scene for as long as eight or nine months at a time ("Me train! Wrestle!") ... Managed in 1981 by Fred Blassie, Steele challenged then-WWF champion Bob Backlund several times for the title ("Belt! Nice, shiny! Me want belt now!") ... Steele continued his disappearing acts, but returned to what fi-

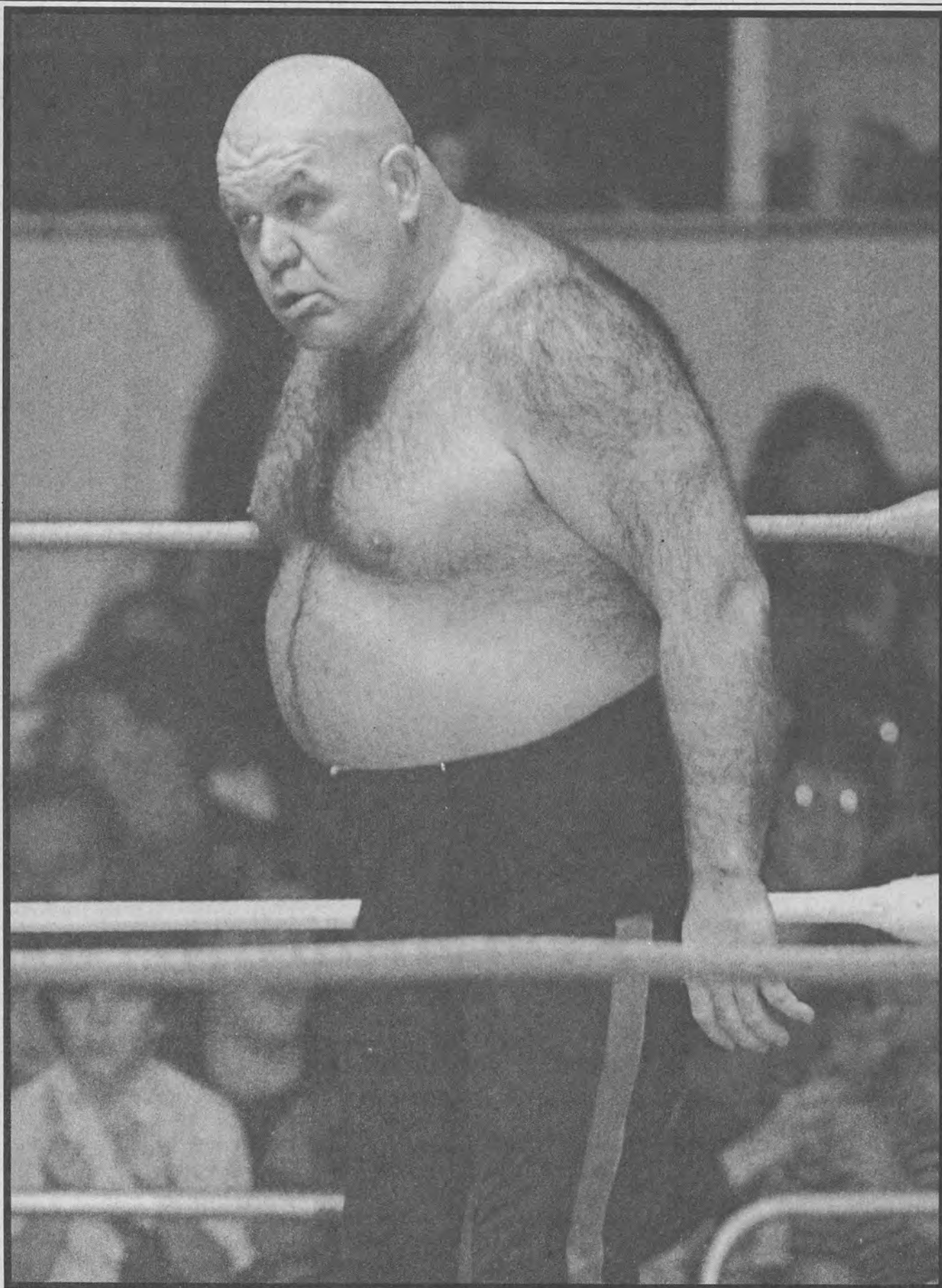


Rene Goulet is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Steele is looking for a turnbuckle snack, and he doesn't care if he has to chew through human flesh to get to it. If anybody in wrestling has an appropriate nickname, it's The Animal.

nally seemed like full-time WWF competition in 1985 under the management of Fred Blassie ... In a tag team match on the first *Saturday Night's Main Event* program, Steele's partners Nikolai Volkoff and The Iron Sheik turned on "The Animal," paving the way for Steele to become a fan favorite ("Sheik! No! You go!") ... Capt. Lou Albano took Steele under his guidance, bringing him to several

doctors to aid in his rehabilitation process ("Apple! Yes, shiny! Me like!") ... Steele seems to be lovestruck by Randy Savage's manager, Miss Elizabeth, and has incurred the wrath of "The Macho Man" by bringing Elizabeth flowers on several occasions ("Elizabeth nice!") ... No matter the result of the Savage-Steele match at *WrestleMania 2*, this feud will likely continue for many months to come. □

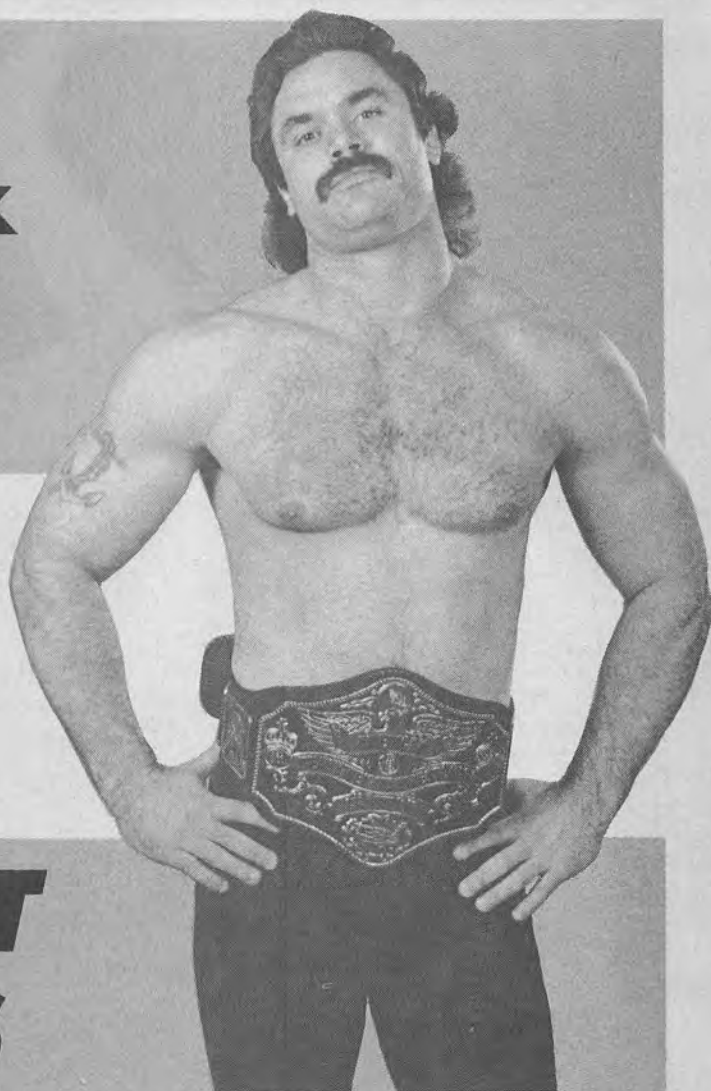
CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE

Rick Rude Turns Back Another Von Erich:

Rick Rude's championship reign in Von Erich-mad Texas may be the most unpopular rule of any champion in wrestling history. The Ravishing One remains steadfast, however, in his determination to retain his crown



"AGAINST ALL ODDS I'M STILL CHAMPION!"

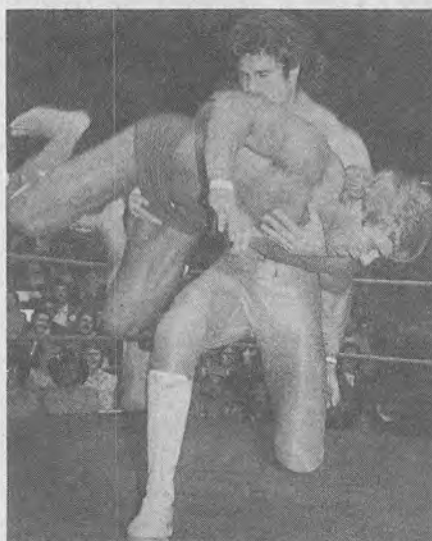
By Liz Hunter

I ACCOMPANIED WORLD Class heavyweight champion Rick Rude through the Marriott's lobby in Dallas.

"Yo, Rude, what's the anchor on the arm for?" someone heckled.

"It's so your old lady'll recognize me at night," Rude shouted back. "It glows in the dark like her lipstick."

Silence. The heckler's wheels spun and then, "Lance Von Erich's gonna shut you up tonight, *big mouth*." The heckler didn't actually say "big mouth," but the intent of his message remains. Rick Rude insists on these midday strolls to "receive his fans," although in the three days I've been here, the only "fans" I've encountered



It will take Von Erich nearly a minute to breathe regularly after being slammed against Rude's knee.

are evangelical Von Erich worshippers—quick to point out Rude's shortcomings—and overly secretious hormone cases—women who simply wanted a Rude squeeze.

If Rude appears solicitous of companionship, it might be that the young star is feeling the heat of the recent World Class decision to form its own federation. Since the World Class splintered from the NWA and boldly declared itself an association with world title status, the media spotlight has glared relentlessly on Rude. The split caused Rude's American championship to be upgraded in stature to the World Class World championship, placing Rude in the same breath as



Rude will fall on his shoulders and neck after being backdropped by Von Erich. Between the quality of competition in the World Class area and the new disqualification rule, Rude will find it very difficult to hold on to his title.

world champions Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Stan Hansen. (At least, that is the World Class' hope; some organizations, this magazine included, do not yet recognize the World Class' claim to such status.)

"Hey Rude," another "fan" postured, "if it's not Lance tonight, then it'll be Kerry on Monday. You a dead man, musclehead."

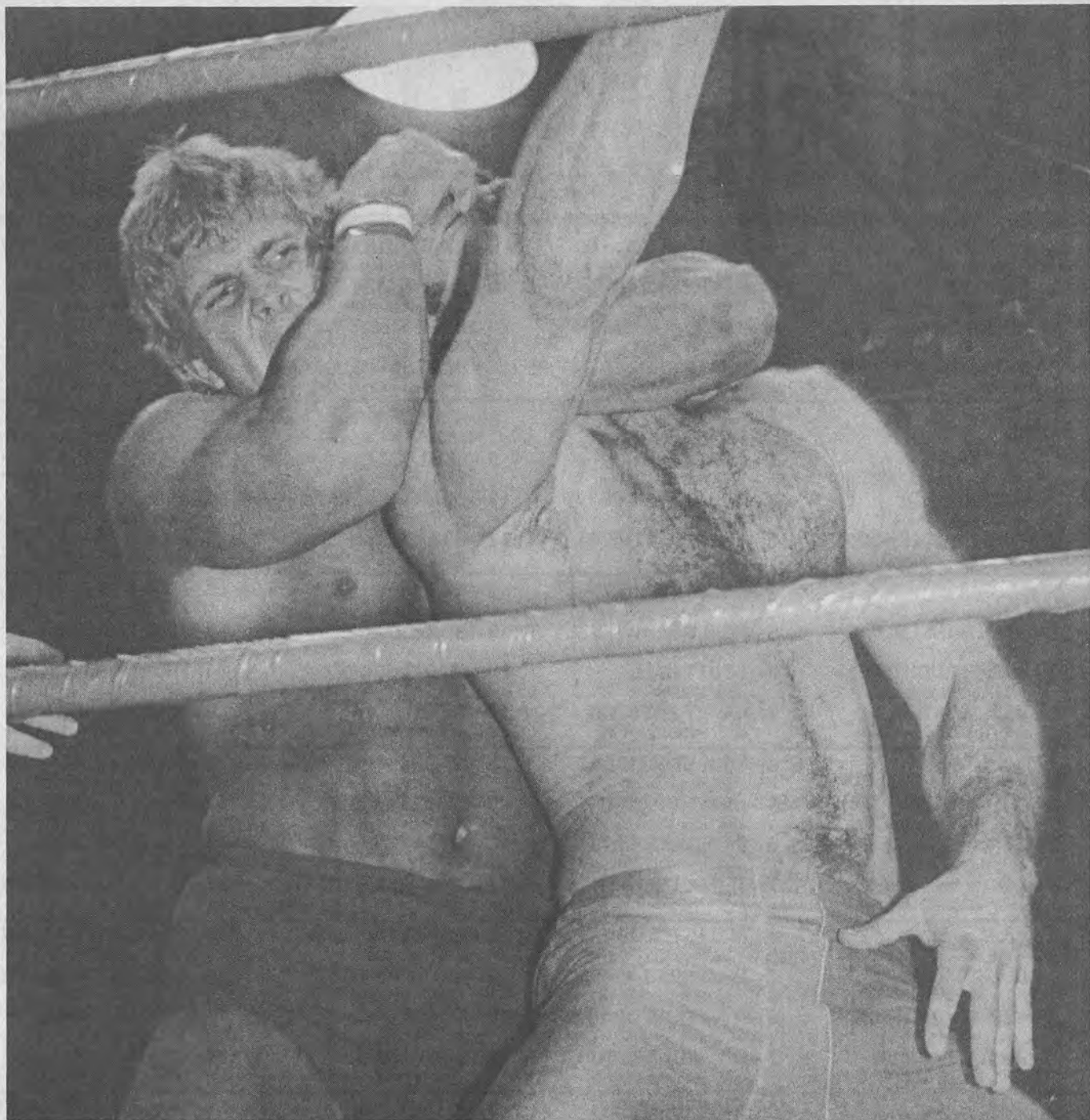
"Hecklers don't bug me," Rude spoke, his stride a lithe airy float that I struggled to keep pace with. "It keeps the edge on my game. You know what it's like to go against the Von Erichs down here? It's like fighting IBM. I love it."

For once Rude could be accused of understating the case. As we passed the hotel gift shop, I noticed an entire shelf devoted to Von Erich memorabilia: T-shirts, bumper stickers, warmup suits, biographies. And the line to purchase was usually two deep. It had been the same at all the overpriced marts dotting the Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport—people forsaking the *Welcome To Oil Country* sweatshirts and *Dallas Cowboys: America's Team* jackets in favor of anything sporting a Von Erich smile. In its own brashly capitalistic way, it was quite exasperating, and I told Rude this.

"Y'know, Rick, this Von Erich-mania can be quite exasperating."

"Exasperating?" he laughed, the veins in his neck and forearms popping in blue-greenish splendor. "Exasperating?" he repeated, somewhat exasperated. "Honey, let me tell you what it's like to be a playboy champion in Von Erich Christianity. It's kind of like being the only non-leper in a leper colony. Everyone is clamoring to infect you. These fans think the Von Erich boys are emissaries from God. Then every night I go out and beat up another one, and the fans froth at the mouth. They can't fathom how much better I am than their boys."

True to his word, that night Rude turned back the challenge of Lance Von Erich, outmuscling the newest Von Erich until he could set up a pin.



When Rude gets into trouble, he can no longer depend on interference from his manager, Percy Pringle. If Rude should be disqualified, he would lose his championship.

Over chicken Kiev and roasted asparagus in a Dallas restaurant where Rude is wildly popular, I asked him if the new disqualification rule—the controversial World Class statute that decrees a champion will lose his belt if disqualified—has forced him to alter his rulebreaking style.

“Look, Lizbet,” he said, draining his Perrier in one gulp, “this whole damn federation got it in for me. The

referees are just waiting for me to slip up so they can disqualify me and hand the title over to one of the Von Erich clones.

“They know there’s no way these guys can beat me straight up. That’s why I have every match videotaped by a private film concern. If they try to railroad me out of my title, I’ll take the whole conniving bunch to court. You saw the match tonight. Lance was

out there rulebreaking with the best of them. But he never got so much as a warning, while the referee is on my back every other minute.

“I am taking precautions. I told Percy Pringle that we can’t have any more of that Florida nonsense. No more interference or else he’s fired. I’ll not have my manager losing this title for me. But am I going to change my

(Continued on page 58)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX

- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 6—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 7—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 8—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 9—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 10—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 11—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY

- 12—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 13—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 14—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 15—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 3—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

- 4—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

- 8—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 9—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago
- 10—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 11—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR

- 12—**CARLOS COLON**
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 13—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 14—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
- 15—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO

AWA

- 1—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
- 2—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

- 4—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 6—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 8—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, parts unknown
- 9—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 10—**MARTY JANNETTY**
224, Columbus, GA
- 11—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

- 12—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
257, Minneapolis, MN
- 13—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, South Africa
- 14—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Appleton, MN
- 15—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ

- 4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 5—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 6—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 7—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX

- 8—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 9—**JESSE VENTURA**
270, Muscle Beach, CA
- 10—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 11—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY

- 12—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
- 13—**HILLBILLY JIM**
282, Mud Lick, KY
- 14—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 15—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
252, Tampa, FL

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 5—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 6—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 7—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 10—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 11—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN

- 12—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 13—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
- 14—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 15—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB

MOST HATED

- 1—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
- 5—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

- 8—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY
- 10—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 11—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 12—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 13—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
239, Boston, MA
- 14—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
- 15—**ARN ANDERSON**
239, Minneapolis, MN

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA and NWA World tag titles
- 2—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
WWF World tag team champions
- 4—**SCOTT HALL & CURT HENNIG**
AWA World tag team champions
- 5—**DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

- 6—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 7—**IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 8—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
No. 1 contenders to vacant U.S. tag team title
- 9—**TOMMY ROGERS & BOBBY FULTON**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
- 10—**LUKE WILLIAMS & BUTCH MILLER**
UWF tag team champions

- 11—**STEVE WILLIAMS & TED DIBIASE**
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
- 12—**RIP OLIVER & BOBBY JAGGERS**
Pacific Northwest tag team champions
- 13—**B. BRIAN BLAIR & JIM BRUNZELL**
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 14—**ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
Southeast tag team champions
- 15—**THE MOD SQUAD**
No. 1 contenders to Mid-Southern tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place . . . Though several Canadian and Japanese championships are listed in the "Roll Call," the ratings themselves reflect United States-based competition.

For period ended March 26, 1986

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALABAMA CHAMPION: JERRY STUBBS

(February 24, 1986; from Roberto Soto; Birmingham, AL)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE

(October 31, 1985; from Isamu Teranishi & Animal Hamaguchi; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(August 31, 1983; from Bruiser Brody; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TIGER MASK

(August 31, 1985; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

RIKI CHOSU & YOSHIKI YATSU

(February 5, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Tenryu; Osaka, Japan)

AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: CANDI DIVINE

(January 16, 1986; from Sherri Martel; Winnipeg, Canada)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(December 29, 1985; from Rick Martel; East Rutherford, NJ)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT HALL & CURT HENNIG

(January 18, 1986; from Jim Garvin & Steve Regal; Albuquerque, NM)

AMERICAS CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER

(June 21, 1985; from Larry Zbyszko; Chicago)

* BAHAMAS CHAMPION: TYREE PRIDE

(March 15, 1986; from Jerry Grey; Nassau, Bahamas)

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: DINO BRAVO

(May 28, 1985; defeated King Tonga to fill vacant title; Montreal)

* CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT & BILL IRWIN

(March 6, 1986; tournament final over Dan Kroffat & Alofa; Sudbury, Ontario)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BOB BROWN

(December 17, 1985; from Brett Sawyer; Ames, IA)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD & BART BATTEN

(November 21, 1985; tournament final over The Midnight Express; Kansas City, MO)

* CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: AKIO SAITO

(March 13, 1986; tournament final over Tommy Wright; Kansas City, MO)

* FLORIDA CHAMPION: KENDALL WINDHAM

(March 11, 1986; from The Cuban Assassin; Tampa, FL)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI

(June 14, 1984; tournament final over Hulk Hogan; Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM TITLE: TATSUMI FUJINAMI & KENGO KIMURA

(December 12, 1985; tournament final over Inoki & Sakaguchi; Sendai, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: SHIRO KOSHINAKA

(February 6, 1986; tournament final over The Cobra; Tokyo)

MID-AMERICAN TITLE: BUDDY LANDELL

(February 17, 1986; from Dirty Rhodes; Memphis, TN)

* MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: BLACK BART

(March 18, 1986; from Sam Houston; Mooresville, NC)

MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(December 31, 1985; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

* MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: ABDUL KHADAFY

(March 3, 1986; from Rick Casey; Memphis, TN)

MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOMMY ROGERS & BOBBY FULTON

(January 13, 1986; tournament final over Luke Williams & Butch Miller; Memphis, TN)

MISSOURI CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

(August 2, 1985; from Jerry Blackwell; St. Louis)

* NATIONAL CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD

(March 4, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Spartanburg, SC)

NATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Ole & Arn Anderson)

NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN

(September 15, 1985; from Gary Royal; Atlanta)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV

(December 1984; first team to claimants to title)

NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 4, 1986; tournament final over Wahoo McDaniel; Charlotte, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 24, 1984; from Kerry Von Erich; Yokosuka City, Japan)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON

(February 2, 1986; from Rick Morton & Robert Gibson; Atlanta)

* NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: JIM DUGGAN

(March 16, 1986; from Buzz Sawyer (sub. for Dick Slater); Oklahoma City)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: BOBBY JAGGERS

(March 9, 1986; from Tom Zenk; Findley, WA)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RIP OLIVER & BOBBY JAGGERS

(January 23, 1986; from Tom Zenk & Scott Doring; Salem, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 30, 1985; from Shohei Baba; Fukuoka, Japan)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE

(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(January 25, 1986; from Lars Anderson; Singapore)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ROCKY & RICKY JOHNSON

(August 3, 1985; from Len Denton & Tony Anthony; Honolulu, HI)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

(February 17, 1986; from Norvell Austin; Birmingham, AL)

* SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BRAD ARMSTRONG

(March 14, 1986; tournament final over Robert Fuller; Mobile, AL)

* SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN

(March 16, 1986; from Tommy & Johnny Rich; Pensicola, FL)

* SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TIM HORNER

(March 21, 1986; from Tom Pritchard; Knoxville, TN)

SOUTHERN CHAMPION: LEX LUGAR

(February 14, 1986; from Jesse Barr; Orlando, FL)

TEXAS ALL-STAR U.S. CHAMPION: AUSTIN IDOL

(January 27, 1986; from Big Bubba; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

TEXAS ALL-STAR JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MIKE GOLDEN

(February 19, 1986; from Dale Veasy; Oklahoma City)

TEXAS ALL-STAR TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AL MADRIL & MAGNIFICENT ZULU

(January 27, 1986; from Paul Diamond & Shawn Michaels; Albuquerque, NM)

U.S. CHAMPION: MAGNUM T.A.

(November 28, 1985; from Tully Blanchard; Greensboro, NC)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Billy Jack Haynes & Wahoo McDaniel)

* UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LUKE WILLIAMS & BUTCH MILLER

(March 16, 1986; from Steve Williams & Ted DiBiase; Oklahoma City)

* UWF TV CHAMPION: BUZZ SAWYER

(March 16, 1986; given by former champ Dick Slater; Oklahoma City)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(November 4, 1985; from Iceman Parsons; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS

(January 3, 1986; from Kerry & Kevin Von Erich & Brian Adidas; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez)

WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: BUDDY ROBERTS

(January 6, 1986; from Mark Youngblood; Ft. Worth, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BRIAN ADIDAS

(March 10, 1986; from The Grappler; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH

(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)

WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)

* WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHICKY STARR

(March 5, 1986; from Invader III; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(March 7, 1986; from Jos LeDuc; Fajardo, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

INVADER I & INVADER III

(September 21, 1985; from Butch Miller & Luke Williams; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(August 3, 1985; from Super Medic; Bayaman, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Butch Miller & Luke Williams)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(June 15, 1985; from Dory Funk Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE

(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)

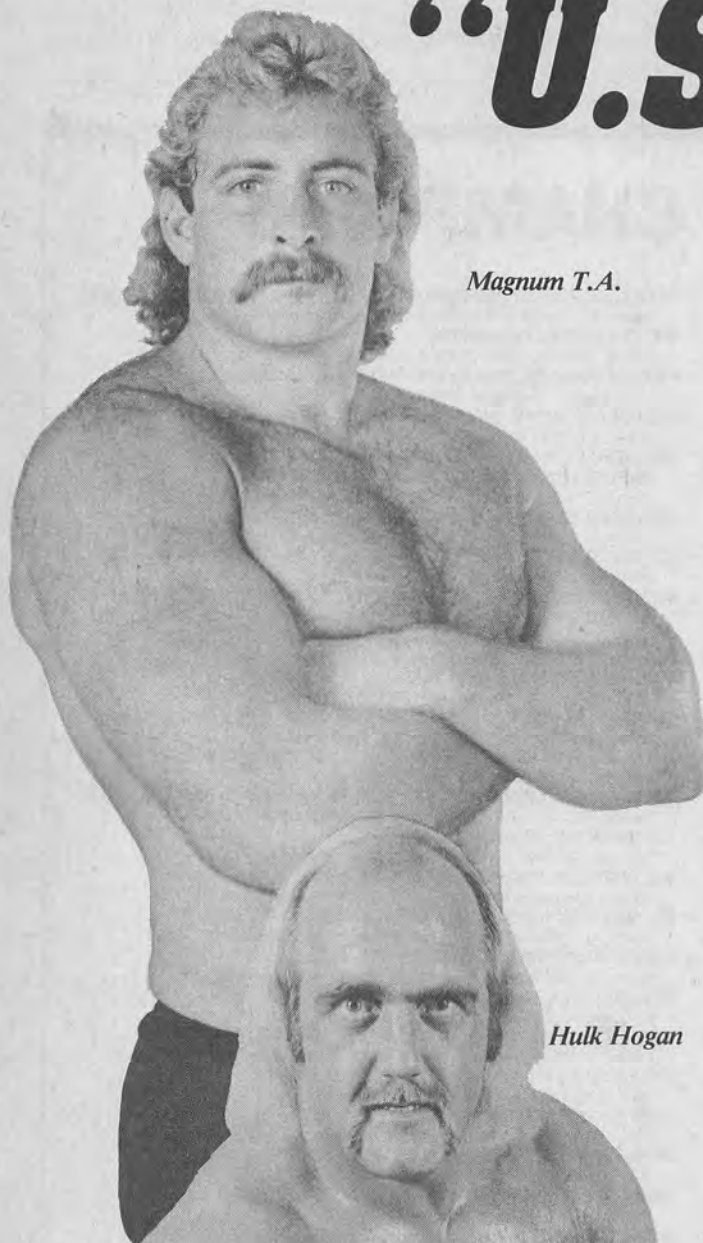
WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

(August 24, 1985; from Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo; Philadelphia)



“U.S.A.!... U.S.



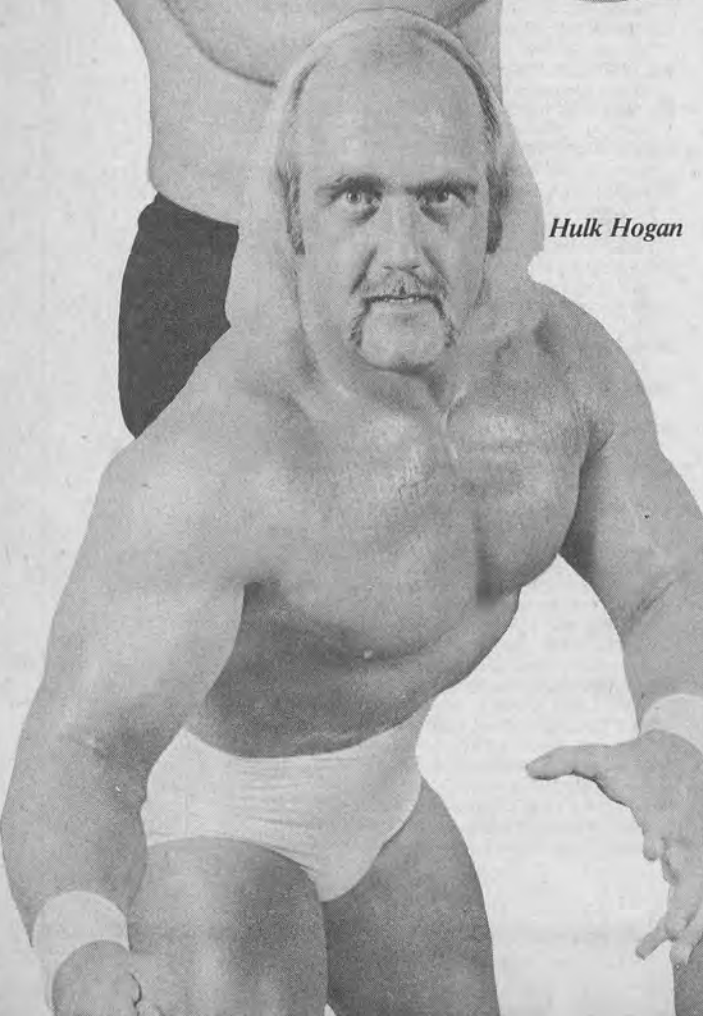
Magnum T.A.

PAT YOURSELF ON the back, America, you're looking pretty damn good. You dropkicked inflation, bodyslammed unemployment. The revival of nationalism has provided everyone with a fresh optimism. Even a gallon of gas is under a buck, so fuel up quickly because the future you're racing toward promises to bring with it the triumphs of the past.

The mid-1980s have glistened with the renewal of hope: neighbors helping neighbors, city folk helping farmers, and rock stars helping everyone; American generosity winning Comeback Player of the Year in a landslide. Even our leading lady, Miss Liberty, paused for a facelift, and her new look reminded us of the old values she stands for.

The wrestling ring is no different. Not only is the foreign stranglehold on many American titles being reversed, but men of questionable repute—confirmed rule-breakers like Ric Flair, The Road Warriors, and Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine have responded to the battle cry. Their intervention is an unexpected but welcomed supplement to the ongoing foreign conflict.

And then, of course, there are the mainstays, the men who have never stopped defending their country, both in style and substance—men whose staunch values bear elo-



Hulk Hogan



Road Warrior Animal

A!... U.S.A.!"

quent testimony to the love and passion they share for their country.

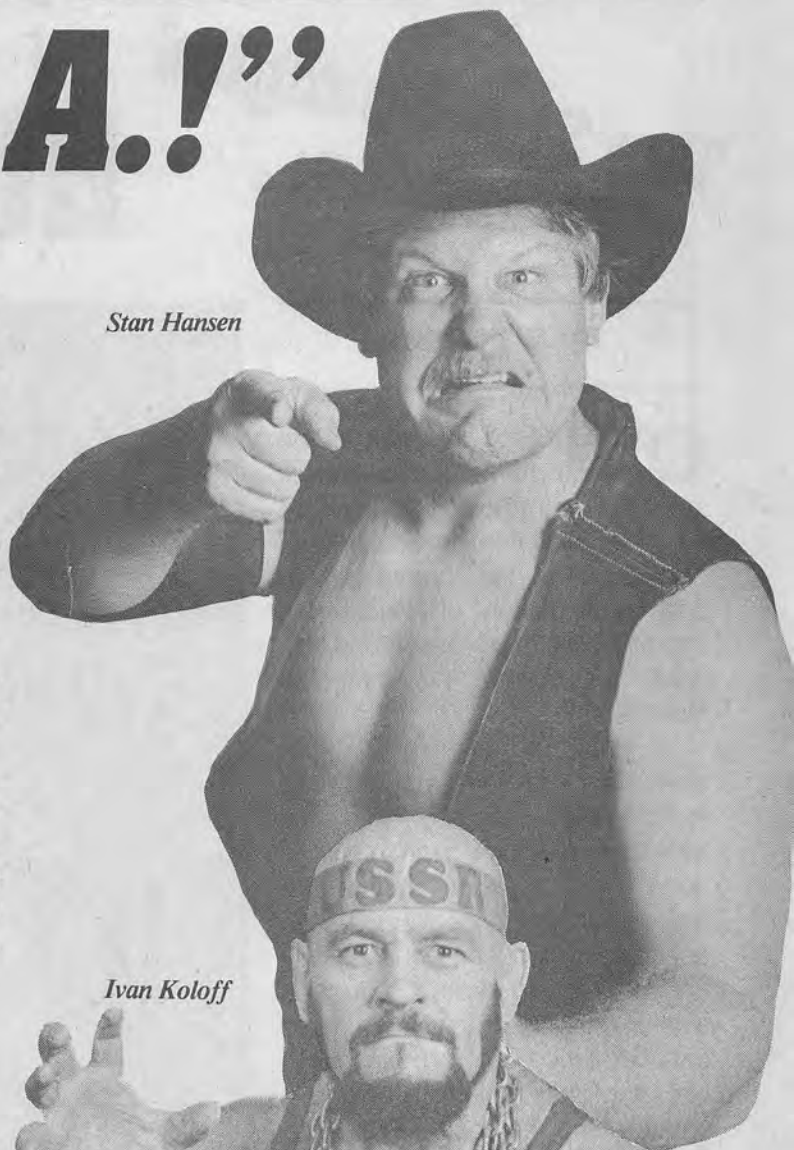
From three of America's greatest cities, we celebrate the accomplishments of these special men. Amidst the rolling tobacco fields of Charlotte, Editor-in-Chief Peter King brings us up to date on U.S. champion Magnum T.A., and investigates the rumor that T.A. will have to defend the title against his good friend, "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes.

Managing Editor Stu Saks traveled to the great state of Texas to bring you his report of the unusual battle between Super Patriot Sgt. Slaughter and AWA champion Stan Hansen.

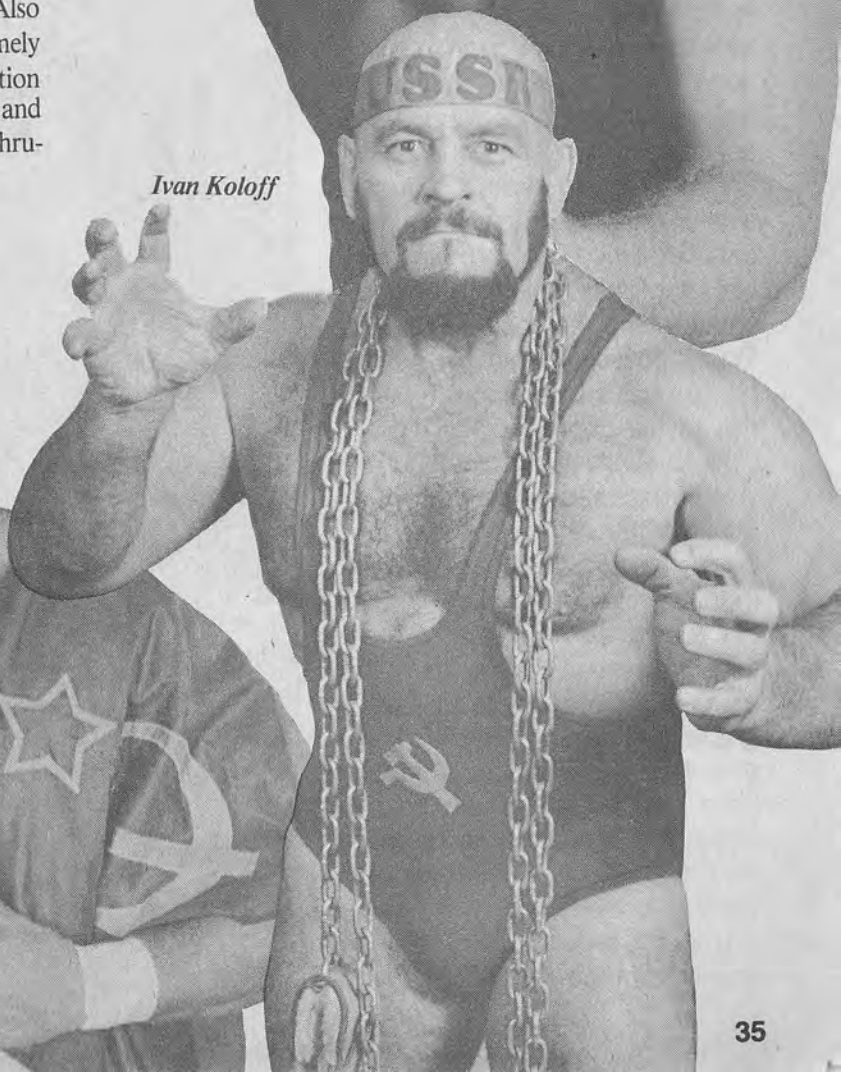
And finally from New York, Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner pays unexpected homage to the American legend of Hulkamania.

Join us in this special exaltation of three of the most significant figures in our country's sporting history. Also in this edition of *Inside Wrestling*, look for the extremely red "Hotseat" with Mr. Ivan Koloff and a confrontation between the unlikely patriot, Road Warrior Animal, and the ultimate enemy of the state, the traitor, Krusher Khrushchev in "One on One."

Stan Hansen



Ivan Koloff



Krusher Khrushchev





The Star-Spangled Champion:

By Eddie Ellner

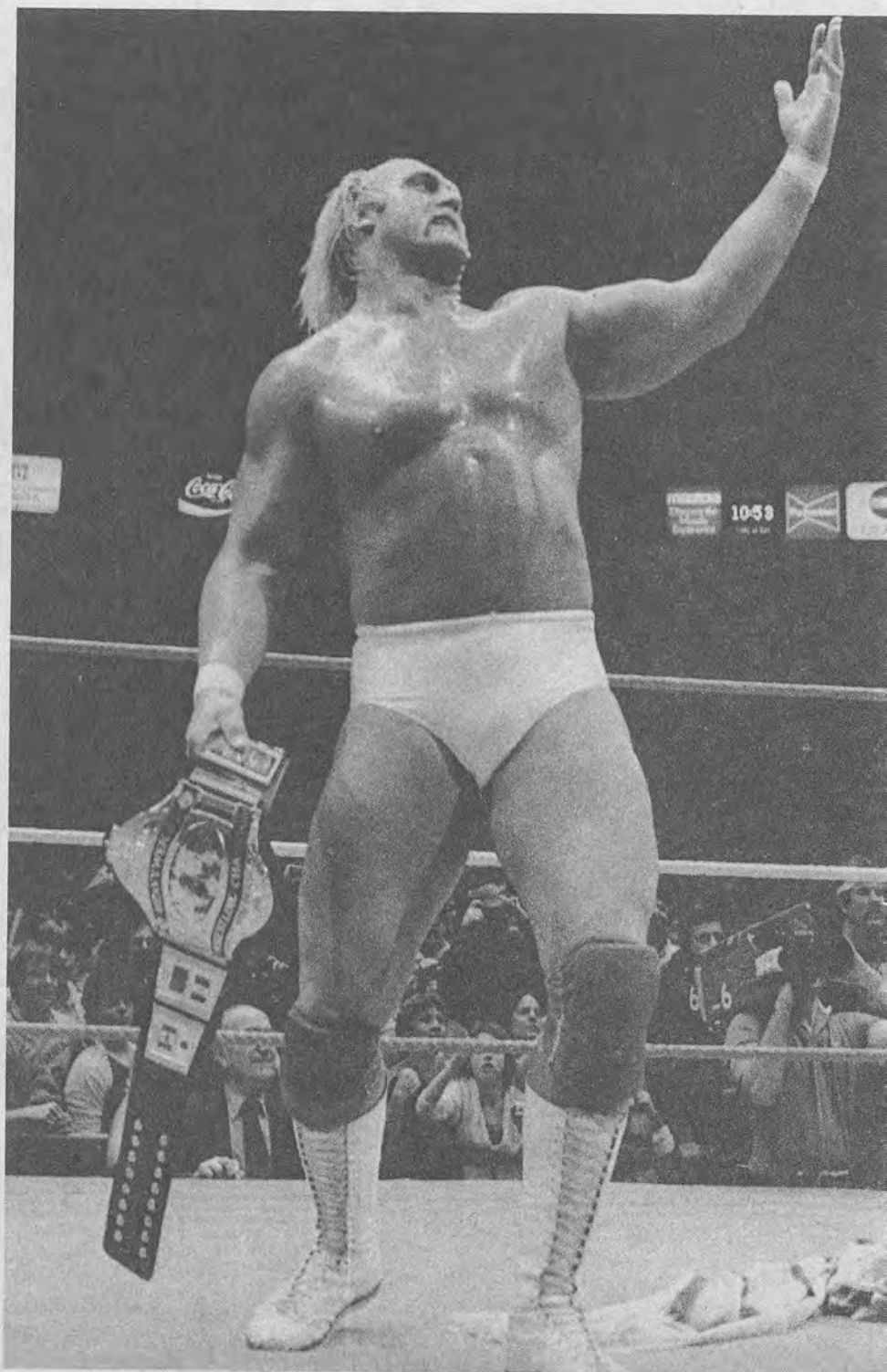
ONE SEES IN the man all the special marks of the modern superstar: his photogenic capabilities, his insatiable drive, his keen zest for life, his comprehension and manipulation of media, his impatience of lulls and stops, his relish for drama, his incurable Hulkness.

So what if he can't wrestle. Oh, save your stamps—it's not that Hulk Hogan cannot wrestle—his two-move gladiator style has carried him to victory against the most endowed opposition. If this analysis of Hogan focused only on his wrestling skills, it would be woefully inadequate. Hogan's transcendence of professional wrestling is complete. Although it created him, the squared circle no longer possesses him. He can, if he so desires, abandon it without risk to his popularity.

But he never will. Although his visage has made a permanent imprint on the American consciousness, he owes his apotheosis to the collective strength of his fans. He would never forsake them, never abandon them for other more lucrative endeavors—which is the real reason why Hulk Hogan has become an American Hero. In the era of the scornful superstar, Hogan treasures his Hulkaphiles, loves them as they worship him—textbook symbiosis.

Hogan's legend differs tremendously from the xenophobic popu-

HULK HOGAN—





- REAL AMERICAN!



Hogan lifts his huge right leg into the face of Randy Savage. Hogan proved his mettle when he defeated Savage decisively two days after suffering the most serious injuries of his career, at the hands of King Kong Bundy.

larity enjoyed by the WWF's other recent cult hero, Sgt. Slaughter. Where Slaughter demanded allegiance to an ideal, namely, the flag, Hogan demands nothing except a belief in the power of Hulkamania. Speaking as if Hulkamania were a separate, autonomous device that can be plugged in and generated at will, Hogan's third-person analysis of the phenomenon is damnright humble.

Hulkamania, Hogan rhapsodizes, is available to every fan,

requiring, like any religion, a devout power in belief. He's as much a part of the process, he would convince us, as anyone is. And the people believe—oh, do the people believe. The profits from the 70 or so Hogan inspired products makes a church endowment seem paltry by comparison. The fans believe because Hogan, unlike the mysterious Judeo-Christian God, *always* comes through. Fans demand consistency in their heroes and Hogan has yet to dis-

appoint them.

On television, Hogan's raspy rat-a-tat "LetmetellyouMeanGene" patter lulls and hypnotizes. We are caressed by Hogan's machine gun cadence, soothed by his grandeloquent assurances of success and revenge. In penetrating Hogan's rhetoric, we discover his content to be nothing we all haven't heard before. The hero is threatened, the hero responds. If victorious we allow him his pedestal until the next challenge; should he lose he is discarded in search of other heroes.

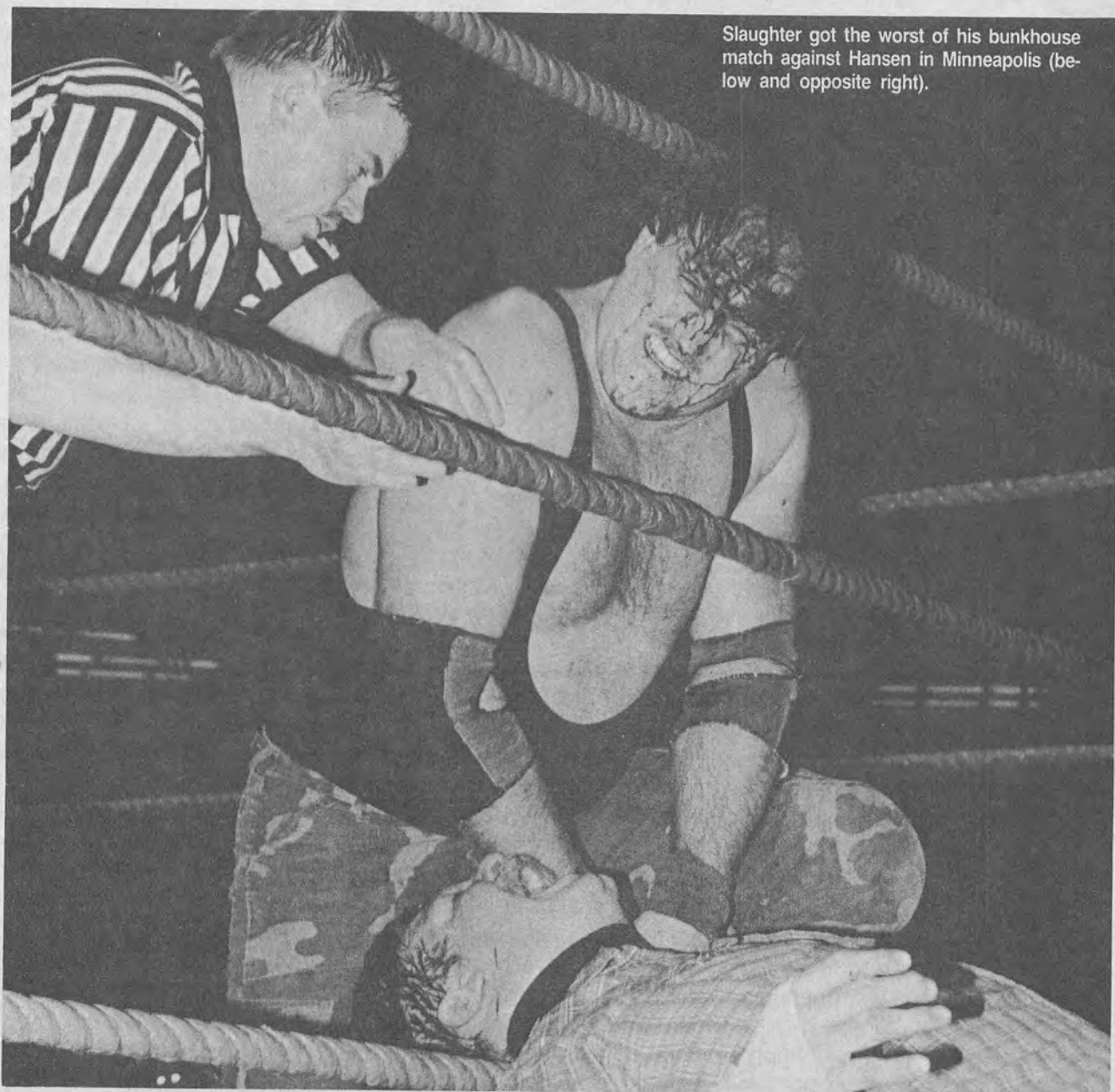
Until Hogan, we had grown accustomed to failure. Our need sometimes created heroes from mortals, men destined for failure because they could not fulfill our unreasonable expectations. Hogan's defeat of The Iron Sheik for the WWF title in January of 1984 has been the restorative wrestling fans craved. His victory, an achievement of muscle, spirit and wit, talent and work, gave fans a hero who, at 6'8", 305 pounds, was quite literally larger than life, yet, because of his superb communicative skills, seemed approachable, like a friendly big brother.

Hogan's triumph over treachery, his stunning five-minute victory over The Iron Sheik, confirmed the most basic American value. What is Hulkamania if not a hooplaed Protestant Work Ethic? The same push and determination that drove our forefathers inspired Hogan to become the

(Continued on page 54)



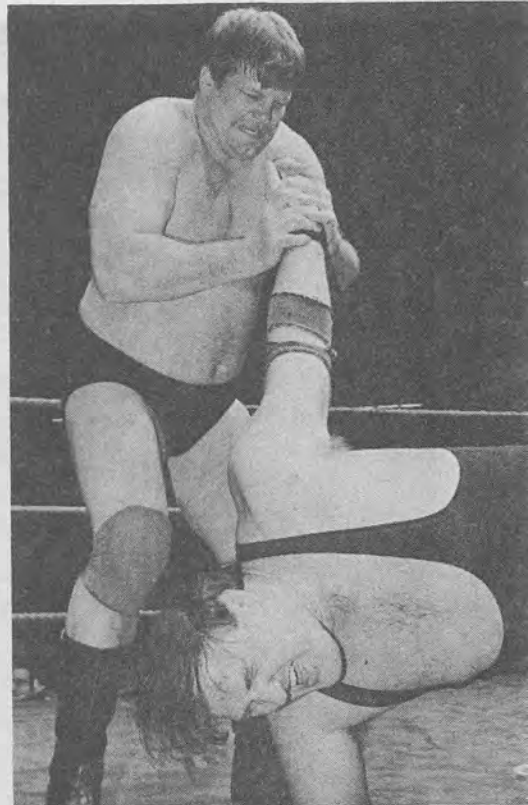
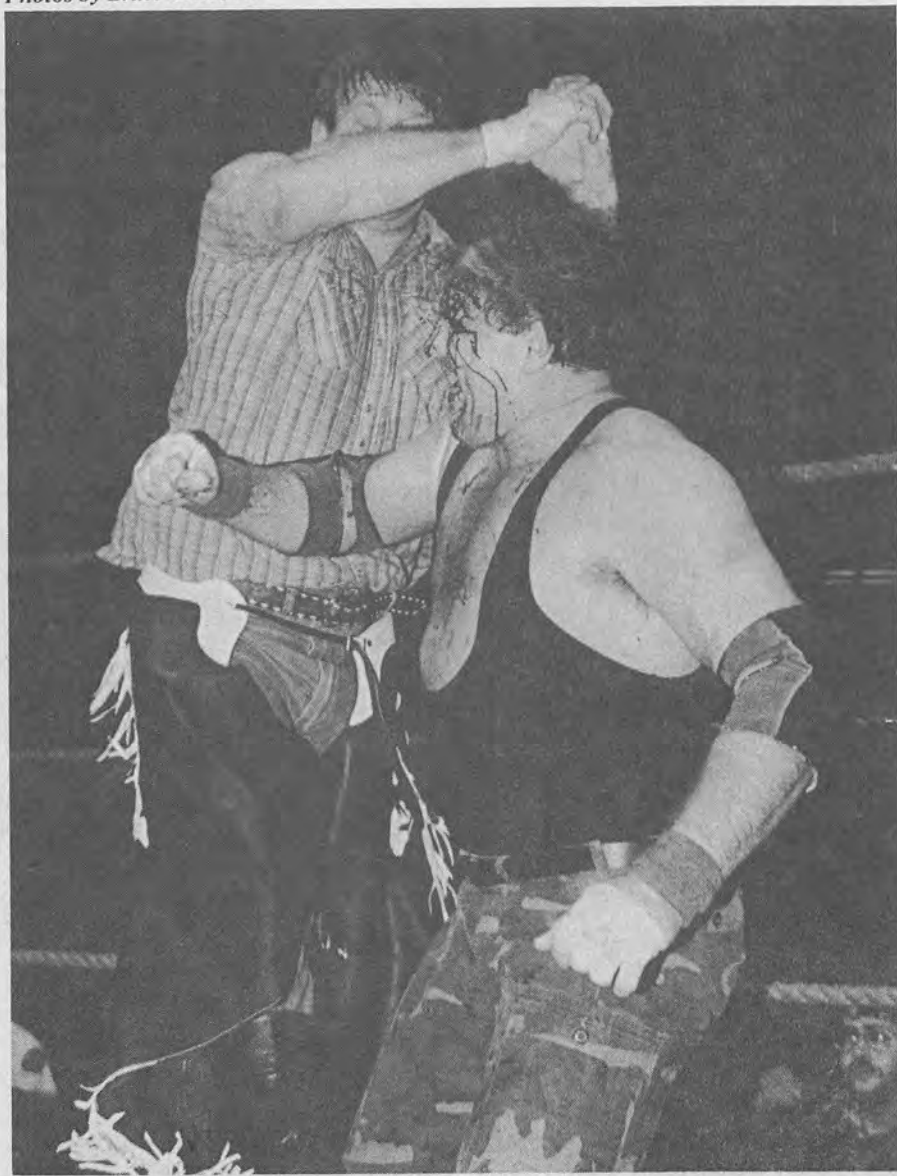
A Clear And Present Danger: **SGT. SLAUGHTER'S PATRIOTIC BATTLE TO SILENCE STAN HANSEN!**



Slaughter got the worst of his bunkhouse match against Hansen in Minneapolis (below and opposite right).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Photos by Bruce Krietzman



A later title match without added stipulations certainly was not lacking in action. There is too much at stake emotionally when these two meet for one of their matches to ever be anything less than great.

By Stu Saks

WITH A KNOCK of his gavel, President Sam Carruthers IV convened to order the 140th annual meeting of the Lone Star Independence Club. The club, established the year Texas was admitted into the union, is specific in its charter, a copy of which hangs framed in cottonwood above the fireplace.

The members of this club will battle with the last flick of their might for the independence of Texas.

The bitter battle that placed Texas' star on the Stars and Stripes is regularly replayed between these mahogany walls. It had been the hope of Jim Bowie, one of the Alamo's commanders, that after Texas won its independence from Mexico, it would forge its own flag and constitution as a sovereign nation. After Bowie fell in the Alamo massacre, the expansionists in Congress demanded that Texas become the 28th state.

The years following 1846 were fraught with violence. Secessionists regularly waged attacks against those legislators who spoke persuasively on behalf of admittance. The Lone Star Club, chartered by one of Bowie's soldiers, precipitated most of the attacks. As the years wore on, though, and oil revenues piled up, the harsh feelings faded; violence was replaced by rhetoric and fire-side debates. The Club was looked upon by the public and even by its members as an oddity, an eccentric museum of past ideals.

Except tonight. Tonight, 487 members, many of them paying their back dues to gain entrance, crammed the walls to hear the
(Continued on page 62)



Warning DUSTY YOUR



Wouldn't it be appropriate for Rhodes to be U.S. champion? Although Dusty doesn't deny that he would cherish that title, he does deny that he would wrestle his friend for it.

By Peter King

WITH ALL DUE respect to those involved, the scene was rather bizarre. The Boy Scouts benefit at this Charlotte elementary school had already raised over \$3,000, most of it coming in sales after the announcement was made that Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. would appear. There were the usual scouting amenities—symposiums on knot-tying and campfires, little keychains for sale sporting tiny silhouettes of scouts navigating an elderly woman across the street, the mothers' bake sale—and the *piece de resistance*, Pack #49's condensed tribute to American Freedom.

The young scouts alternately read from the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Gettysburg Address, and the Pledge of Allegiance, fin-

ishing with a colorful rendering of "This Land Is Your Land." In the middle of the song, Dusty Rhodes, dressed as the Statue of Liberty, emerged from behind the curtain and stared resolutely ahead, his huge hand delicately thrusting a paper mache torch toward the auditorium roof. Given Dusty's eclectic fashion tastes, his Miss Liberty costume did not seem entirely ridiculous, although the bronze makeup did cast a somewhat mulatto glow to his skin.

Ridiculous or not, this was Dusty Rhodes at his best: The American Dream spending his leisure time helping to contribute to American institutions. Rhodes and Magnum T.A. are legendary in these parts for their selfless devotion to the fans, and after the performance, the fans mobbed them for auto-

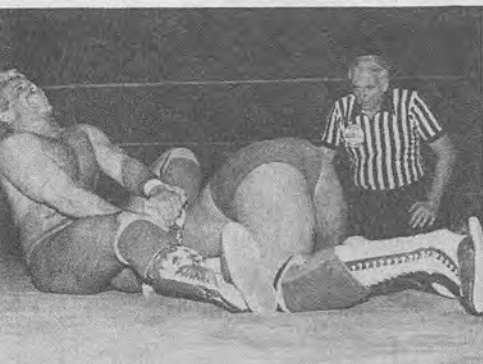
graphs. No one left disappointed.

Soon it was the three of us, and that was when things became strange.

"I was readin' a book on philosophy by a cat named Helvatiuss the other day," Dusty said, dressed now in a flamingo pink and black pinstripe suit and floppy blue fedora, "and I'm tellin' you, daddy, those Greeks knew what they were talking about. All that talk about pleasure and pain. They were right. Man is a creature who wants his pleasure. No pain. Just pleasure."

Was I hearing things? From an introductory philosophy class I took years ago in college, I vaguely recall the Ancient Greek philosopher Helvatiuss and his controversial Pleasure/Pain principle, although the last place I expected to need that knowledge was in this elemen-

To Magnum T.A.: RHODES WANTS U.S. TITLE!



If forced to by NWA officials, Magnum T.A. would put the U.S. title on the line against his best friend, Dusty Rhodes, but he would not do so by choice.

tary school in casual discourse with Dusty Rhodes. Like I said, the scene leaned toward the bizarre.

"I wasn't aware that you were such a student of philosophy," I chided the Dream.

"Whattya think, big publishing daddy, I just drank beer and chased women at West Texas State?" Dusty answered, winking.

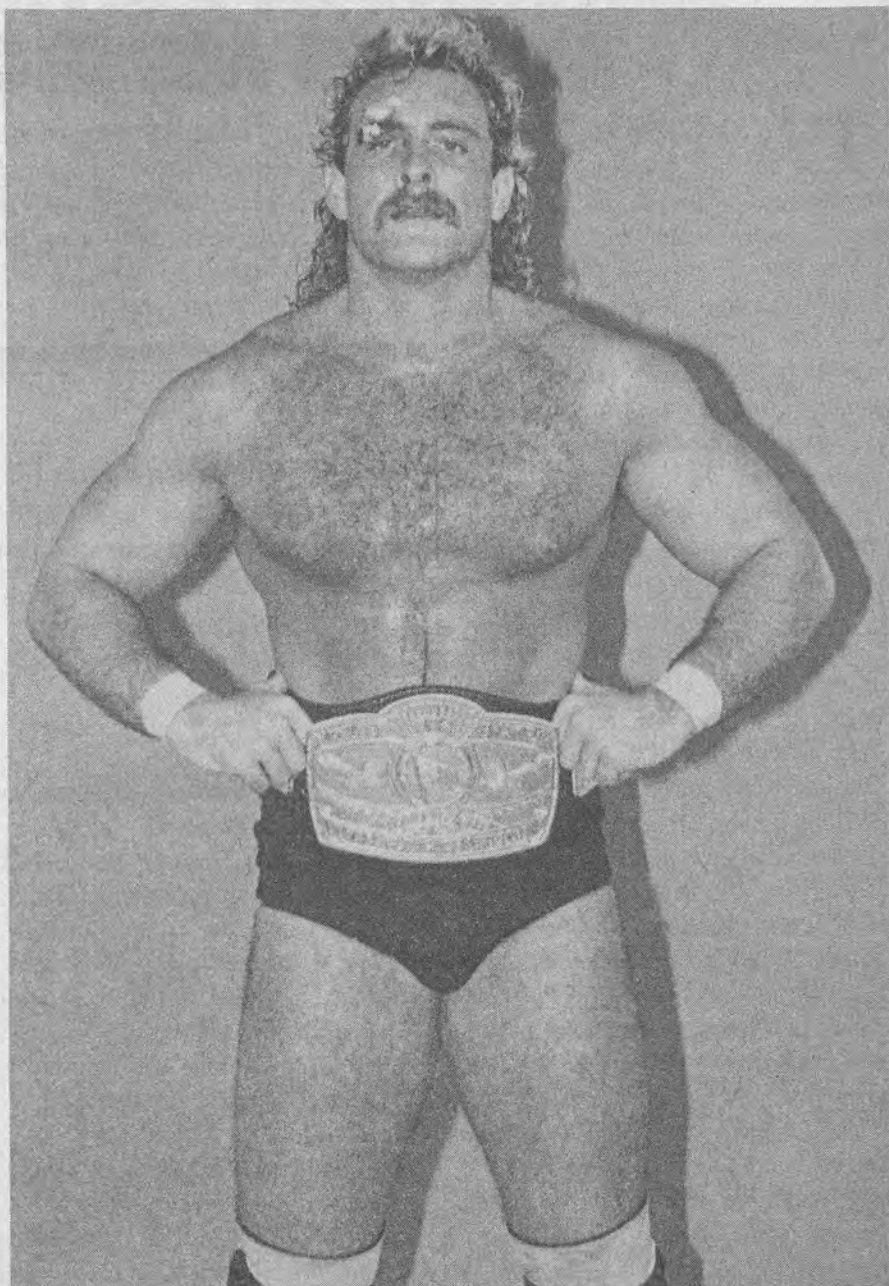
"I thought you just drank beer," Magnum said.

"I don't know what you clowns did, but in college this daddy had one foot on the football field and the other foot in the Student Union," Dusty countered.

"It was easier to study in the Union than it was in the library?" Magnum challenged.

"No, but they didn't sell beer in the library," Dusty laughed, and

(Continued on page 56)





HOTSEAT

IVAN KOLOFF: "AMERICAN PATRIOTISM MAKES ME SICK!"

THE FIRST THING you notice are the walls, chalky white and barren, except for a lone black and white framed photograph of four young men in long gray overcoats and furry hats, sitting comfortably around a wooden cooking pit. We discover the men to be Ivan Koloff's father and his father's three brothers, posing with expressions of marked contrast to one another. The 30-year-old photograph is in remarkably good condition, although its edges are crinkled, as if to indicate how often it is removed from its frame and handled—or fondled.

We are in Ivan Koloff's apartment, located in the Dag Hammarskjöld building on East 47th Street in New York, about three blocks west of the United Nations. Koloff is rarely here, preferring the more Russiannesque splendor and tranquility of his Charlotte, North Carolina, estate, but there is official business to which he must attend. A group of Soviet ministers is here on a fact-finding mission, and Ivan Koloff, whose duties for his native land extend far beyond the ring, must brief them.

For 25 years, Ivan Koloff has been vilified as the preeminent Russian menace in America, a sobriquet he accepts impassionately, although not without a hint of pride. It is in his official Soviet

residence—for the Soviet Union owns this apartment and much of the building as well—that Assistant Editor Ed die Ellner spoke with Koloff about his three-decade-long battle against American ideals and patriotism.

“

Americans are such a moronic group, believing in myths and fairy tales. Russians speak from experience of hardship. Americans speak from living room watching their VCRs.

”

Q: Tell me more about the photograph, Ivan. The four brothers all seem to be lost on different islands of thought.

A: You've caught me at a weak time, reporter. Today is the 18th anniversary of my father's death. I just got off the phone with my Uncle Kalki. We spoke for hours.

Q: How did your father die?

A: My father was a general in the Soviet Army. He was shot down during the Czech insurgency in 1968.

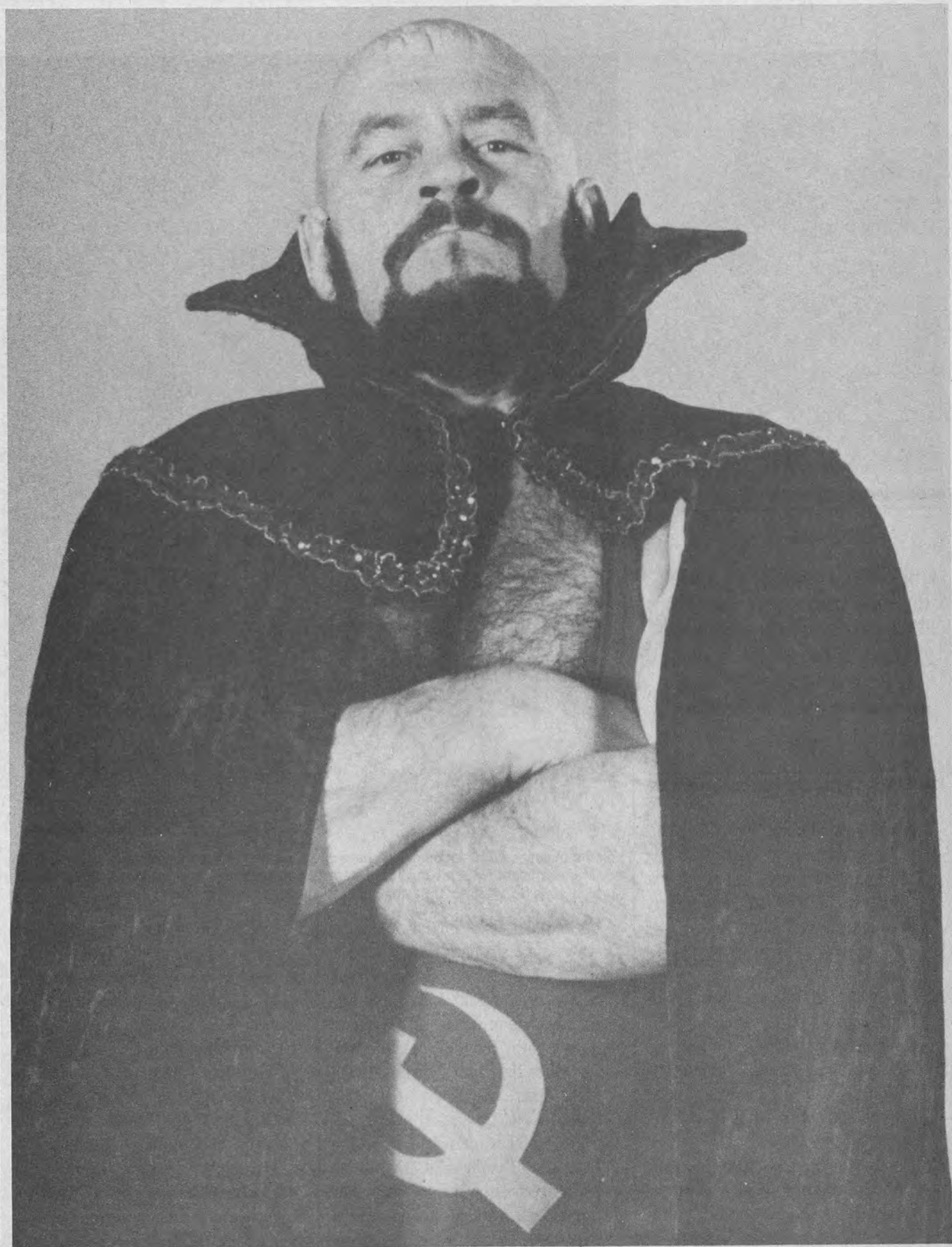
Q: You mean your father led the at-

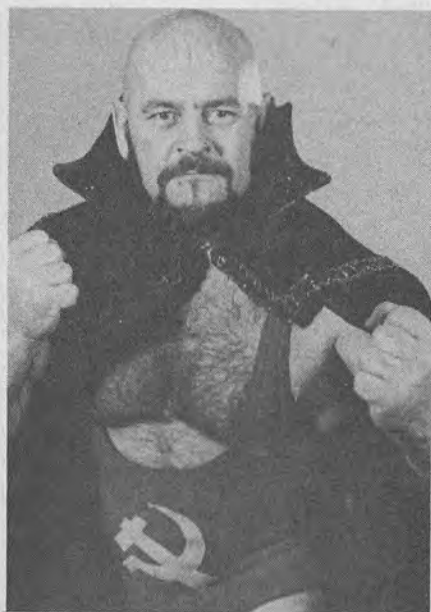
tack on Czechoslovakia?

A: A common American misconception. Americans are such moronic group, believing in myths and fairy tales. Spend a winter on Russian border defending your homeland in weather that makes your toes brittle like twigs. Russians speak from hardship of experience. Americans speak from living room watching their VCRs. We were preventing the seeping capitalistic influence of the west from eroding proud Czech spirit. Without our intervention, Czechoslovakia would have tumbled like domino and collapsed.

Q: Should we begin a discussion of politics, I'm afraid we won't get very far. Why is the photograph so sad?

A: It's a very sad photograph, reporter. It is of four men in the revel of youth looking out into the world and discovering the answers to their dreams lay in vastly different arenas. My father and his brother Kalki were wed to the military. Kalki is general today in charge of missile deployment for the Asian front. But the other two, Vladimir and Nikita, saw things differently. A year after that photograph was taken, they snuck across the German border and into Switzerland.





“

Unlike America, Soviet Union does not coddle its criminals. That is why we are strongest country in the world. That is why myself and Nikita are greatest wrestlers in the world.

”

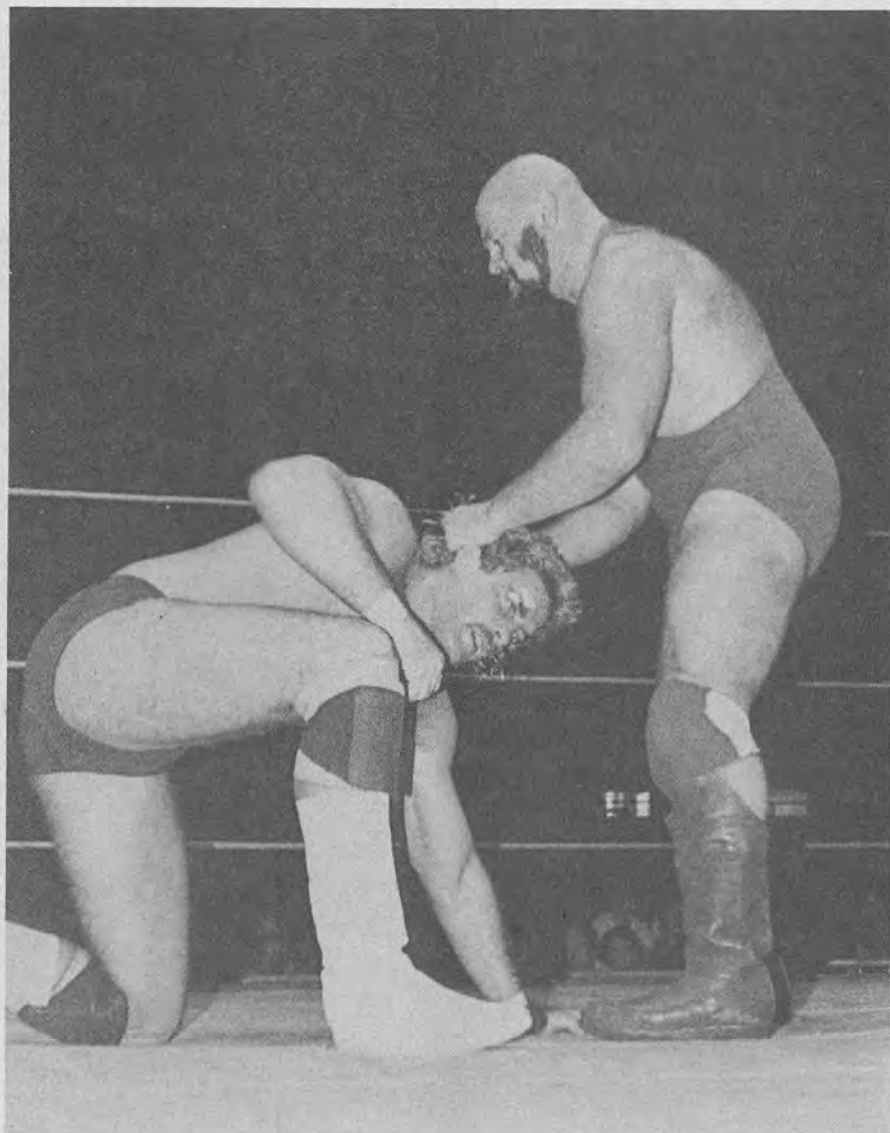
Nikita was captured and shot. Vladimir made it to America. He owns a restaurant not very far from here. I understand it is very fashionable, very elegant.

Q: You've never visited your uncle's home?

A: My uncle's caused my family—especially my father—much grief, too much anguish. We are a proud Russian family. When Vladimir left Russia, he died for me in the same way Nikita did in front of the firing squad.

Q: Don't you find something wrong with a country that shoots its citizens?

A: Unlike America, Soviet Union does



Koloff's matches with Magnum T.A. have greater significance than many fans realize. The Soviet government feels it would be a tremendous embarrassment to the United States if a Russian were to wear to U.S. championship belt.

not coddle its criminals. That is why we are strongest country in the world. That is why Russians such as myself and Nikita are the greatest wrestlers in the world. We have no sympathy for the weak and pitiful. We have no friends except each other and those few who share in our beliefs. American patriotism makes me sick! It is such a false ideal. People rally around flag and screech about values while they trample each other every day of their lives. Businessmen would cut

the throat of their brother for an extra dime.

Q: Lately, many American wrestlers have utilized the sweeping patriotic fervor as a means of inciting the crowds and themselves. How does this affect you? How does entering an arena where 15,000 people are cheering for you to be killed affect your concentration?

A: During World War II, my father commanded a squad of 1,500 soldiers that held off German company of 20,000. Instead of boos, Ger-



A former Russian ally, Don Kernodle was nearly put out of wrestling when he turned against the Koloffs.

mans hurled grenades and dropped bombs. Your question is as imbecilic as it is insulting. Nothing can faze me in the ring.

Q: You Russians are so quick to insult Americans. I would hate to point out that the standard of living for the average Russian citizen is on a par with that of a wealthy third world country. Or that the Soviet Union has the highest rate of alcoholism in the entire world. Or that the suicide rate in Russia is also among the highest in the world. Such dreary statistics for such a wonderful place to live.

A: Our history, the history of our people's struggle against oppression is beyond your comprehension. You are soft, big-bellied fools. Your hardships mean rained-out picnic or cancelled concert. The

world is not so pleasant a place, as you will one day discover, my ignorant reporter.

Q: The Road Warriors have made America a not so pleasant a place for you, your nephew, and your traitorous friend Krusher Khrushchev. Have you any new ideas on how to combat the Legion of Doom?

A: The Road Warriors will pay for the injury they perpetrated upon Comrade Khrushchev. Nikita Koloff is greatest wrestler in world. It is a privilege for American people to be able to watch him in action. Nikita's loathing of United States overshadows mine. He will stop at nothing to destroy all American heroes.

Q: I thought the younger generation of Soviets were more sympathetic toward our decadent western ways. I figured by now Nikita would be breakdancing at the hottest clubs in town.

A: Very funny, reporter. You are a



Koloff resents the man who calls himself "The American Dream." The Koloff-Rhodes feud has been a bloody classic.



“

Nikita Koloff is greatest wrestler in world. Nikita's loathing of United States overshadows mine. He will stop at nothing to destroy all American heroes.

”

very funny man indeed. Nikita lost a very close relative because of United States. He holds this country responsible.

Q: Who? How is the United States responsible for the loss of one of Nikita's relatives . . .

A: Enough questions, reporter. I have business to attend to now. We will talk later, over some vodka, when conditions aren't as harsh. Perhaps you will come to understand what it means to be citizen of Soviet Union.

Q: I doubt it.

A: Stranger things have happened, comrade. Much more stranger things have happened. □



The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

OF THE HUNDREDS of feuds spawned each year from wrestling ring wars, none is as potentially explosive as the campaign between the Legion of Doom and the Russians, featuring the Koloffs and Krusher Khrushchev.

Since their first sold-out encounter in Baltimore a year ago, the two camps have unfurled a violent storm of fury commensurate to their behemoth size and strength. Late last year, the Koloffs knocked Road Warrior manager Paul Ellering unconscious with their chains and hung Hawk from the turnbuckle. It took a fearless display of strength and courage from Animal to clear the ring and save his partner's life.

The Legion of Doom vowed revenge. With Ellering picking his spots, the Warriors attacked the Koloffs at random, in different parts of the country, although the Russians were able to escape serious injury. Then, while wrestling alone for the Mid-Atlantic title against Sam Houston, Krusher Khrushchev was surprised by Hawk and Animal. Without his Russian brethren around to help, the Warriors administered a fearful beating to Khrushchev, injuring his leg in several locations. Diagnosis: Khrushchev, an integral cog in the Russian fighting machine, is not expected back until mid-July.

Rather than wait three months for its resolution, *Inside Wrestling* arranged to bring Khrushchev—who was in the hospital for intensive rehabilitation—and

ONE ON ONE



"For an American to turn commie and remain in America to earn a six-figure living, that sticks in my craw."

—Road Warrior Animal

Animal—the Warrior most responsible for the leg injury—together over the phone lines to swap threats and reprisals ... "One on One."

KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV:

If only I could really reach out and touch somebody over this phone. Animal, you are the worst kind of scum, a man loyal only to his own sense of brutality, a man dominated by an unquenchable blood lust. My brothers and I will destroy you, Warrior.

ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL:

I'm no flag-waver, Darsow—I know of Uncle Sam only because he bites 50 percent out of my paycheck every week—but it takes a

real low-life to give up on his country. If you were born Russian, I'd still hate your filthy guts, but I'd respect your rights as a citizen of a foreign land. For an American to turn commie and remain in America to earn a six-figure living, that sticks in my craw. You deserve everything you get, you yellow-skinned traitorous sonofabitch.

KK: You don't know anything about me, bub. You're so stupid I'm surprised you can remember how to put your makeup on in the morning. By the way, I've always wanted to tell you how damned funny you look in mascara. You and your bozo friend both are the

N ONE



"I didn't want to hate America. It's the only logical choice for a thinking man."

—Krusher Khrushchev

laughingstocks of wrestling. No one will tell you that because they're so scared of you two. And they're scared that if they tease you, promoters won't book them because you draw so many jerks into the arenas. You're just a muscleheaded geek, Animal, and you have the name to prove it.

WA: I've been sending clowns like you to the hospital for 10 years now, and from what I can gather the food seems to have improved in quality. Is that so? You've been in an out of the hospital for almost three months now. How is it? Got any bedsores? Flirt with many nurses? I'm surprised an American hospital would treat a contemptible

piece of trash like yourself. You think I'm a laughing stock of wrestling? If you saw my bank book, you wouldn't laugh, comrade mooface. You'd cry seeing how much money The Road Warriors make. The same way our opponents cry after we're through beating 'em to a pulp.

KK: Who cares about your bankbook? Such talk is what tore this country apart in the first place. I am not impressed by your money, Monkey-head. I'm impressed by your ghettos and slums. I'm astounded that you think nothing of riding a limousine to the matches while men sleep in the street. I grew up behind a white picket fence mental-

ity. I didn't want to hate America. It's the only logical choice for a thinking man. Thank God Comrades Koloff and Koloff showed me the right path to take.

WA: Yeah, there's a couple of winners for you. Ivan and Nikita Koloff, straight from Jerkwater, Russia. Biggest morons in the sport.

KK: And I suppose Hawk scored 1,400 on his SAT scores.

WA: It's generally conceded that Paul Ellering has the sharpest business mind in wrestling.

KK: Sure he does. How else could a no-talent bum like Ellering get so rich? He leeches on to a couple baboon brains like you and Hawk and rides the money rollercoaster. I give Ellering credit. And when I get out of the hospital, I'm going to give him a broken leg.

WA: Don't give up your bed yet, Khrushchev. The second you walk out of the hospital I'm sending you right back in. But next time I'll be more considerate. Next time I'll send along Nikita and Ivan to keep you company.

KK: Americans are so cocky.

WA: You're an American, you buttface. You pay taxes, you eat American food, drink American water, and sleep in American beds. You changed your name to Khrushchev and suddenly you're Leo Tolstoy. I don't see you condo-shopping in Kiev, big talker.

KK: Someday soon I'll leave America for trash like you.

WA: The sooner the better. Believe me, I'll do everything in my power to hasten your departure. I'd love to send you back to Moscow in a canvas body bag.

KK: You're scum, Animal.

WA: You're afterbirth, Khrushchev.

KK: I'm gonna kick your ugly hide to pieces. I'm gonna teach all of your fans to respect and worship Soviet ideology.

WA: You'll never make it back to Russia alive, Khrushchev. Lots of people want you out of action, but I'm making them wait. When Hawk and I are done, we'll scatter your pieces to the pigeons. On second thought, I won't do that. *I like pigeons.*

KK: Talk is cheap. Your hospital bills won't be. I guarantee it. □



THIS MONTH IN...

THE Wrestler



A special analysis of NWA World champion **RIC FLAIR**: He bends, but he won't break!



Learn how **KING KONG BUNDY** became the WWF's most hated man

PLUS . . .

NIKITA KOLOFF overpowers **SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**—Can anyone stop this awesome Russian? . . . Heroes are booed when the dark side of **THE FABULOUS ONES** becomes evident . . .

Q & A interview with **LEX LUGAR** . . .

Introducing **SIVA AFI** . . . **RICK MARTEL** is spotlighted in a special feature

All this and much more . . .
in the July 1986 issue of
The Wrestler

ON SALE NOW!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



Learn all about the emotional tug-of-war that threatens to destroy "Macho Man" **RANDY SAVAGE**



It's two legends at the crossroads as the up-and-coming **LEX LUGAR** tackles the perennial ringmaster **HARLEY RACE**

PLUS . . .

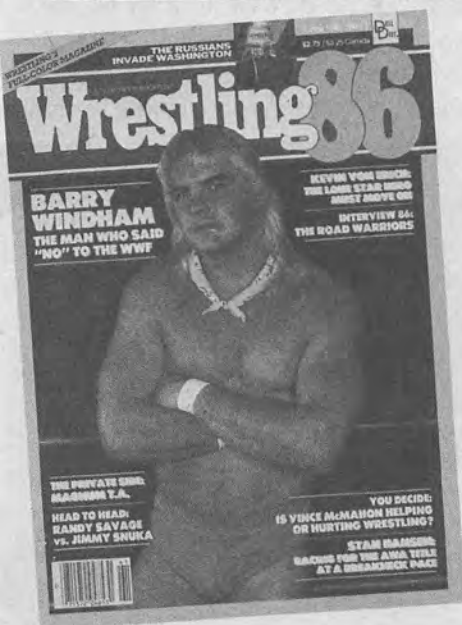
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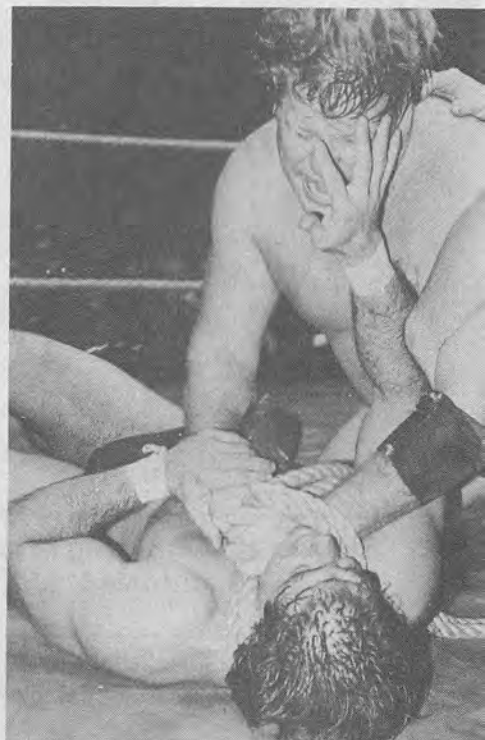
(Continued from page 6)

staff of crack reporters would find out what.

PHYLIS KERNS
Baltimore

HANSEN IS THE MAN

The interview with Stan Hansen in the May 1986 *Inside Wrestling* confirmed a view of a man I've long admired. "If there is a problem, remove it, blot it out, annihilate it" goes the Hansen credo, and I couldn't agree with him more. What is, after all, the essence of professional wrestling? Is it to tapdance? Square dance? Break dance? No, there is no etiquette to the



Stan Hansen strangles Rick Martel shortly before winning the AWA crown. In Burns Delacourt's opinion, Hansen is the epitome of the word champion.

sport. The object is to win, to achieve fame and increase wallet size. The ring is no place to be polite. Stan Hansen understands this simple concept, which is why he is a world champion. As for the alleged brutality of his wife and nine children, all I can say is Emma Lou is still with him, so she must love him. Long may Stan Hansen reign.

BURNS DELACOURT
Chicago

HALF-TON LOVE

I enjoy watching a lot of WWF wrestlers, but I'm particularly impressed by Big John Studd and King Kong Bundy. AWESOME is the best word I can think of to describe this mammoth team. At a combined weight



King Kong Bundy tries to smother Road Warrior Hawk. Gregory Nash believes that a team of Bundy and Big John Studd would easily defeat the Warriors.

of 822 pounds, it's no wonder they're running roughshod over all competition in the WWF. Studd and Bundy would reduce The Road Warriors to small piles of mascara; it's a shame that the two teams will never meet. Politics ruins many of wrestling's greatest potential matchups. I guess Studd and Bundy will continue to feast on appetizers like Hulk Hogan, Hillbilly Jim, and Junkyard Dog. With the genius of Bobby Heenan guiding them, Studd and Bundy's domination of the WWF will be short in coming.

GREGORY NASH
Altoona, PA

HERO WORSHIP

Being a Steve Williams fan used to be a dangerous calling here in Tulsa. The more I tried to convince people of
(Continued on page 52)

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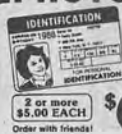
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 51)



Steve Williams, the object of fan abuse since his junior high school days, has become one of the most popular men in the Mid-South. Rather than utilizing his aggressiveness against men like Terry Taylor (above), Williams has been gearing his efforts toward men like Dick Murdoch and Masked Superstar.

Williams' basic decency, the louder the boos seemed to get. Then Ted DiBiase gets beat up by Dick Murdoch and suddenly everyone is rah-rahing for Williams and DiBiase. I'm eternally happy, although I'm inclined to dish out a bunch of "I told you so's".

I've known for years, ever since I watched Williams wrestle in college, that he embodied the courage and fortitude of 10 good men. Because of his natural aggressiveness and overwhelming desire to excel, he was classified as a rulebreaker and gustily booed, a rap he never deserved. Instead of being embittered, he ignored the boos and went about piling up victory upon victory.

Now that his out-of-the-ring heroics have been made public—his daring rescue of two people from of a burning car—people understand what makes this Steve Williams tick. I hope the people that were so quick to vilify him have learned their lessons. The real Steve Williams has emerged.

CARL DOVER

Tulsa, OK ☐

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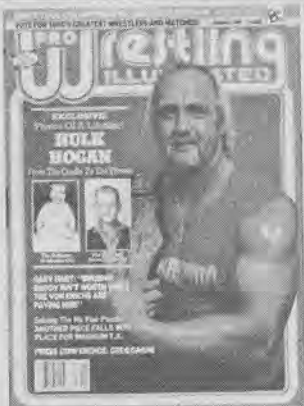
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August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blissie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

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January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

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April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

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September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The PWI Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

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December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; PLUS: 1984—The Year In Review.

April 1985/COLOR POSTER: Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE! Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. PLUS: Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, PWI Rates Top 15 teams.

June 1985/COLOR POSTER: Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

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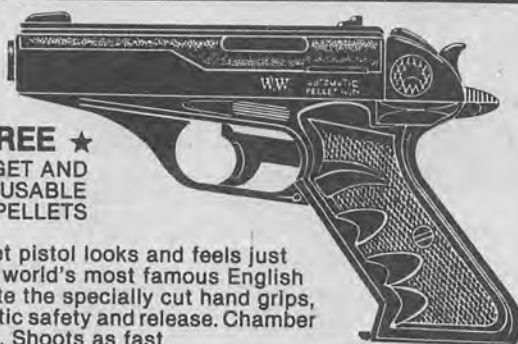
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HOGAN

(Continued from page 37)



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This is how Hulk Hogan be-
came an American hero. Not by
combating foreigners night after
night as Slaughter had to; not by
draping himself in Old Glory and
parading around the ring like a
dotty Uncle Sam. Hogan attained
his status by winning—first the ti-
tle and just about every match
thereafter. His few defeats—to
Magnificent Muraco, to Randy
Savage, and lately (although not
in an official match) to King Kong
Bundy merely magnified his star
when he rallied to defeat these
men in rematches against seem-
ingly insurmountable odds.

In the final analysis, Hogan
most closely resembles another
reigning American hero, Rambo.
But whereas Sylvester Stallone's
creation is staged and celluloid,
Hogan is real bone and sinew.
Should Rambo miscalculate a sit-



While still feeling the effects of his injuries, Hogan made a courageous defense against Big John Studd. Studd squeezes the champion's damaged ribs (opposite page). Hogan stuns Big John (above). His bandage in shreds on his shoulder, Hogan has his belt returned (below).



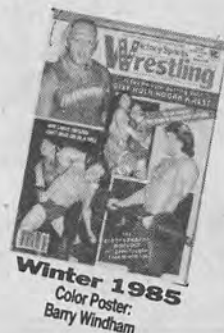
uation, he, as director, will yell "Cut!" Hogan's defense must be spontaneous and correct, night in, night out. Both men favor action and accomplishment over whining boasts and threats, although Hogan's flowing tongue is necessary to spread the gospel, to enlist the masses into the Mania.

In his rock video, *Real American*, Hogan shreds a picture of Libyan Col. Moammar Khadafy. The act is redundant. Hogan doesn't need to surround himself with American icons to convince us of his patriotism. He claims not to be a superman, yet he performs super heroic deeds, doing so with enviable directness. In victory after victory, Hogan preaches the freedom of choice, the triumph of free will, the vitality of sustained effort. We are all Hulk Hogan, Hogan cries, we are all Americans, and together we shall not fail. ☐

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MAGNUM T.A.

(Continued from page 41)



T.A. and Rhodes are smart enough to know that a match between the two of them could not be scientific.

Magnum and I were quick to join in. Rhodes and Magnum might be the best friends in wrestling today. Aside from defending each other in the ring, the two share an unshakable affection that is genuine and quite immune to envy and ego. While most wrestlers will ultimately give their career goals precedent over the niceties of loyalty and friendship, neither Rhodes nor Magnum—although they've had dozens of opportunities—give any indication that their relationship can be endangered over petty jealousies. As Magnum said, "We're better because of our friendship, not in spite of it."

Keeping faithful to the day's lecture notes, I asked Dusty—given his proclivity toward pleasure and his aversion to pain—what his reaction would be if tomorrow he discovered that Magnum's open U.S. title contract had his name on it.

"After all, Dusty, it's never been a secret how much you covet the U.S. title. What if the only way you could win it would be to defeat Magnum—pin your friend, possibly be forced to humiliate him in the ring? What would that mean in

terms of pleasure and pain?"

Magnum looked on grinning, though his eyes were very serious. Dusty removed his hat and adjusted the headband. "I wouldn't do it," he said finally. "Yes, winning the U.S. belt would bring me pleasure. The American Dream defending the United States title—they two go together like pancakes and syrup."

Rhodes draped a paw around Magnum's shoulder. "But I wouldn't fight my man Magnum. Friends are hard to come by in this business. Hell, daddy, I been through two dozen best ones in my career and I don't intend to lose this one. Magnum's like a brother to me. I'd no sooner beat on my own flesh and blood than I would beat on T.A."

"The pain, big ol' magazine daddy, would outweigh the pleasure. It's that simple."

"And there's no guarantee you would come out in one piece anyway," Magnum said, but with a wide open smile. "Seriously, though, in my wildest dreams I cannot imagine wrestling Dusty. No way. No how."

Before we bury this rumor, it is relevant to note that on a recent TV broadcast, when asked if he would wrestle his good friends The Rock 'n' Roll Express in the Jim Crockett Memorial Cup, Dusty Rhodes replied, "For the Cup and that money, I'd rip their heads off."

When accosted with his own words, Dusty shrugged and said, "I was just kidding, and besides, they ain't Magnum." Perhaps not, but what about Dick Murdoch, Buggy McGraw, and Jim Duggan, all men Dusty's befriended in his career only later to carry out bitter and violent feuds against?

The two friends of America, of the fans, and of each other strolled out of the tiny auditorium, arms affectionately squeezing each other's back. So far both their hands are free of daggers. Let's hope it remains that way. ☐

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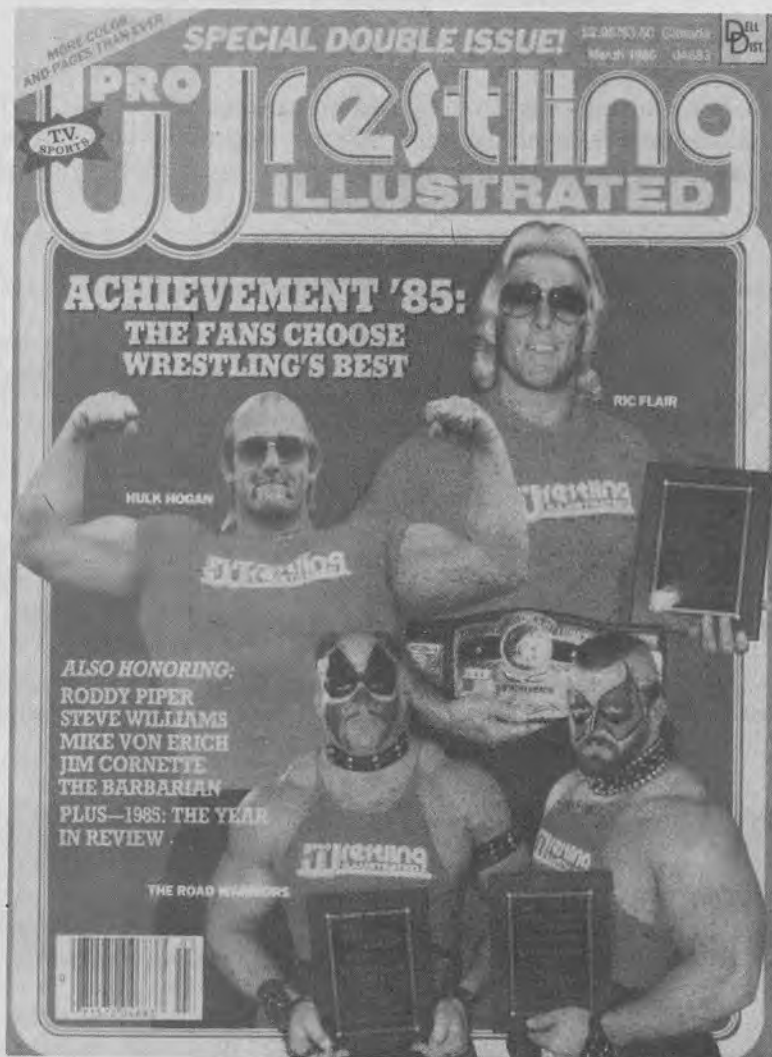
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RUDE

(Continued from page 31)

style? No way! I'm an aggressive brawler. Once I hesitate in the ring, I'm through. I'm not going to give this crown away. I'm Rick Rude, ravishing champion of the world, and if anyone wants this belt, they're gonna have to pin me for it.

"And the only time I get pinned, peachy Liz," Rude twinkled to me, "is in the bedroom."

Being propositioned by Rick Rude is an experience every woman should have at least once. Ever mindful of my position as the only objective female wrestling reporter in the free world, I



While Rude is determined to keep his title from the Von Erichs, he must be careful not to overlook other dangerous contenders.

found turning him down, this time, was easy. "Thanks, but no thanks," I cliched, but begged for a juicy quote to end my story. The champion obliged.

"I'll take on this whole foul state one by one if they want. I am indomitable. I am Rick Rude. I am a world champion. And I'll die before I let a Von Erich steal my belt. I've been defying the odds my whole life and I'll be damned to hell if I'm gonna allow my belt to be stolen. And that's the story." □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

spend a lot of time watching TV
wrestling, looking at tapes on the
VCR, and reading wrestling maga-
zines. Let's face it, wrestling fans
know more about wrestling than
wrestlers. It really annoys him
when he comes home and I start
showing off how much I know."

What annoys Karen is her hus-
band's reluctance to take her to his
matches. "He thinks I just want to
go because he's my husband. He
thinks he's doing me a favor by
keeping me home," she laments.
"But it's better that I see what is
happening firsthand. That way I
don't have to worry all night."

No matter what time Wahoo is
scheduled to come home, Karen

times a week around the country.
The wrestlers never have time to
let their injuries heal. So if Wahoo
pulls a muscle in his leg one night,
chances are the injury is going to
be aggravated the next night. It be-
comes a vicious cycle. Every night
they aggravate old injuries while at
the same time adding new injuries.
Professionally speaking, these men
should only be in the ring once
every week or two.

"But try to tell that to a wrestler!"

Since Karen knows she cannot
convince her husband to reduce
his wrestling schedule, she does
her best to educate him on the
proper ways to prepare physically
for a match. "The majority of veter-



A bleeding Wahoo McDaniel has his arm raised in victory (above left). Karen McDaniel (above right) tries to control her emotions while watching her husband wrestle.

will stay up to greet him when he
walks through the door. Although
she is a gourmet cook who will
spend hours preparing elaborate
meals for her husband when he
isn't wrestling, Wahoo rarely eats
after a match. "He's usually too
tired and banged up to think about
food," she said. "More than my
cooking ability, though, I think Wa-
hoo likes the fact that I am a regis-
tered nurse."

Every wrestler should be so
lucky. Wahoo says that being mar-
ried to a nurse will probably add
five years to his career. "I don't
think the average fan really under-
stands what these men go
through," Karen says. "They see
the matches in their city once or
twice a month and don't realize
that these men wrestle four or five

ans warm up for a match the same
way they did when they were rook-
ies. They don't know how impor-
tant it is to stretch out your mus-
cles before a match, especially as
you get a little bit older. If these
guys were more educated about
their bodies, they could probably
cut their injuries in half."

Although often tempted to do
otherwise, Karen limits the advice
she gives Wahoo to her area of
expertise. She will never make sug-
gestions on what he should do in
the ring. "I might know more about
who's feuding with whom in Chica-
go or Portland," she says, "but
when it comes to how to counter a
figure-four leglock, no way! Wahoo
wouldn't have been on top of the
sport for so long if he took advice
from a 120-pound woman!" □

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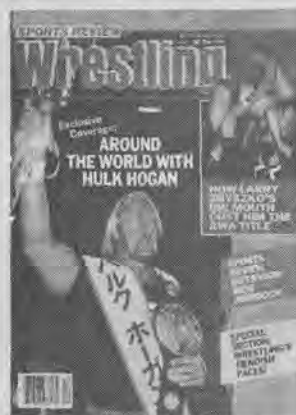
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Slaughter, showing little regard for winning the AWA title, applies a cobra clutch from the ring apron. Of course, the referee would step in and force him to break.

most eloquent and violent secessionist in history speak.

"You geezers have forgotten everything Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie fought for," screamed guest speaker Stan Hansen to his redfaced audience. "Those men died for the pride and glory of Texas the nation, not Texas the state. Our forefathers would toss in their graves if they knew we gave up the fight. We're one of 50 states now. Do you want to be in the same category as California, a state populated by chinks, gooks, wetbacks, and queers?"

The crowd broke from its years-long lethargy and roared. Except for one harried looking man in the back, who furiously scribbled notes into his legal pad. The man did not join in the cacophony; quite the contrary, he cringed each time Hansen worked the crowd into a frothing dither.

"I won't have it," hollered The
(Continued on page 64)

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Increases in inches		

	Muscle Mix	Non-Users
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SLAUGHTER

(Continued from page 62)

Bad Man From Borger. "I won't have Texans, especially a proud bunch like this, sit down and take the posturing, the cutbacks, and the limitations the federal government puts on us. We gotta do something about it, goddamn it! The hell with America!"

Someone asked Hansen what he was doing about it.

"For starters, I've been beating that patriotic glory-hound Sgt. Slaughter from one end of the country to the other. The hell with the Marine Corps, too. Is that enough for you? Is that okay?"

The man in the back decided to leave. He stored his pens and pads and crept silently out the door. He filed and mailed his report, which was read later in the week by a concerned and interested party.

The quality of Sgt. Slaughter's lifestyle depends on your point of view. To most, the Sarge lives humbly, in a small two-bedroom home skirting a middle-sized Minneapolis suburb. His most modern concession to technology is an elaborate microwave oven that sticks out obtrusively in his traditionally appointed kitchen.

"I'm never home long enough to cook a meal," Slaughter says in defense of the appliance. "But I like to eat at home."

Although Slaughter's decorating tastes lie between the chaste and the homespun, he's quick to claim his life is among the most ornate in the world. "I'm an American citizen, brother, and that's as plush as you can get."

When Slaughter read the report filed by Marine Cpl. Mark Davis, he shook his head in bewilderment and anger. "Stan Hansen should be out wrestling scum like Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie and Col. DeBeers. To have an American citizen going around knocking the



While ideologically opposed, Slaughter and Hansen are well-matched physically and share similar styles. The Sarge traps the AWA champion in a side headlock.

Marine Corps and cutting down America makes me crazy. It's downright dangerous. Even though Hansen is a brutal rule-breaking scum, thousands of fans support him. According to this report, his speech at the Lone Star Club was interrupted six times for standing ovations.

"You know who belongs to that darn club? Some of the most affluent and influential members of Texas society, that's who. Who knows what might happen if a maniac like Hansen gets their ear? Texas is a great state. She belongs in America. I'll hear none of this secessionist bullcrap. Talk like that rips this country apart."

Slaughter stroked his famous jaw. "I'll tell you something right now. I view this feud against Stan Hansen as the most important fight of my career. You just can't have American citizens knocking the Corps like he does. Forget the AWA title. Forget money. Forget it all. This battle is for the pride of America. If kids see Hansen beating me up, they're going to listen to what he has to say. I won't have it."

"When it comes to the welfare of this country, Sgt. Slaughter does not lose any battles." □

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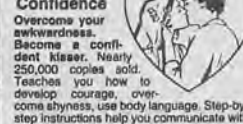
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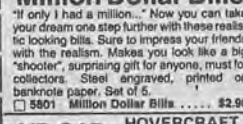
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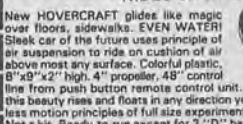
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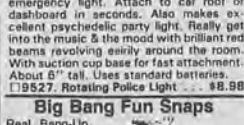
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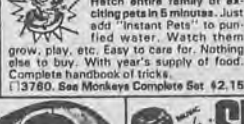
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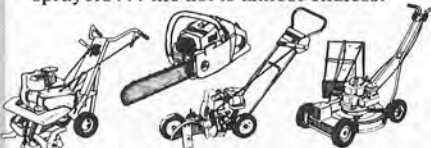
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